



30,092/8



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2016 with funding from  
Wellcome Library



J Russell

Dec. 1892.









Account of the Life, Trial, Conviction and Execution of WILLIAM NEWINGTON, who was Hanged at *Tyburn* for *Forgery*.

THIS unhappy young man was a native of Chichester in Suffex, and was the son of reputable parents, who having given him a good education, placed him with Mr. Cave, an attorney of that town, with whom he served his clerkship: and then coming to London, lived as a hackney-writer with Mr. Studley in Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, for about two years and a half.

But Newington being of a volatile disposition, and much disposed to the keeping company and irregular hours, Mr. Studley discharged him from his service; on which he went to live with Mr. Leaver, a scrivener in Friday-street, with whom he continued between two and three years, and served him with a degree of fidelity that met with the highest approbation.

This service he quitted about a year before he was convicted of the offence which cost him his life; and in the interval he lived in a gay manner, without having any visible means of support, and paid his addresses to a young lady of very handsome fortune, to whom he would soon have been married, if he had not been embarrassed by the commission of the crime which gives rise to this narrative.

It is presumed that being distressed for money to support his expensive way of life, and to carry on his amour, he was tempted to commit forgery, which, by an act of parliament then recently passed, had been made a capital offence.

He

He went to Child's coffee-house in St. Paul's Church-yard, where he drew a draft on the house of Child and company, bankers in Fleet-street, in the following words.

" Sir Francis Child and Comp.

" Pray pay to Sir Rowland Hill, Bart. or order, the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds, and place it to the account of

Your humble servant,

" To Sir Fra. Child, and                      THOMAS HILL.  
Comp. Temple-Bar."

The draft he dispatched by a porter, but was so agitated by his fears while he wrote it, that he forgot to put any date to it; otherwise, as Mr. Thomas Hill kept cash with the bankers, and as the forgery was admirably executed, the draft would have been paid: but at the instant that the porter was about to put his indorsement on it, one of the clerks said he might go about his business, for that they did not believe the draft was a good one.

The porter returned to the coffee-house without the draft, which the bankers clerks had refused to deliver him: but on his return he found that the gentleman was gone.

At the expiration of two hours the bankers clerks came to Child's coffee-house, and enquired for the person who had made the draft; but he was not to be found; for, in the absence of the porter, he had enquired for the Faculty-Office in Doctor's-Commons, saying he had some business at that place, and would return in half an hour.

About two or three hours afterwards the porter's son told him that a gentleman wanted him at the

the Horn and Feathers in Carter-Lane, where he went, and told Newington that the bankers had refused to pay the note: "Very well, (said he) stay here till I go and put on my shoes, and I will go with you, and rectify the mistake."

When the porter had waited near three hours, and his employer did not return, he began to suspect that the draft was forged, and some hours afterwards calling in at the Fountain Alehouse in Cheapside, he saw Newington; on which he went and fetched a constable, who took him into custody, and lodged him in the Compter.

Being tried at the next sessions at the Old-Bailey, he was capitally convicted, notwithstanding nine gentlemen appeared to give him an excellent character: but character has little weight where evidence is positive, and the crime is capital.

When called down to receive sentence of death, he delivered the following address:

"May it please your lordship,

"This my most melancholy case was occasioned by the alone inconsiderate rashness of my unexperienced years. The intent of fraud is, without doubt, most strongly and most positively found against me; but I assure your lordship I was not in want; nor did I ever think of such a thing in the whole course of my life, till within a few minutes of the execution of this rash deed.

"I hope your lordship has some regard for the gentlemen who have so generously appeared in my behalf; and as this is the first fact, though of so deep a dye, my youth and past conduct may, I hope, in some measure move  
Vol. II, No. 19. S s " your

“ your lordship’s pity, compassion, and generous assistance.”

After conviction Newington flattered himself that he should escape the utmost ignominy of the law through the intercession of his friends: but when the warrant for execution, in which his name was included, was brought to Newgate, he appeared to be greatly shocked; but recollecting and composing himself, he said, “ God’s will be done!” But immediately bursting into tears, he lamented the misery which his mother would naturally endure when she should be acquainted with the wretched fate of her unfortunate son.

The dreadful tidings being conveyed to his mother, she left Chichester with an aching heart; and it was a week after her arrival in London before she could acquire a sufficient degree of spirits to visit the unfortunate cause of her grief.

At length she repaired to the gloomy mansion; but when she saw her son fettered with chains, it was with the utmost difficulty that she could be kept from fainting. She hung round his neck, while he dropt on his knees, and implored her blessing and forgiveness: and so truly mournful was the spectacle, that even the goalers, accustomed as they are to scenes of horror, shed tears at the sight.

This malefactor was executed at Tyburn, on the 26th of August, 1738.

It does not appear from any account transmitted to us, that Newington ever violated the laws of his country, in any instance but that for which he suffered: but when we consider the nature of the offence itself, its dangerous operation upon the mercantile world, and the extremity of  
distress



distress in which he involved his mother, we can hardly say that he suffered too much.

No man has a right, for the support of his own extravagance, to make free with the property of another. Honest industry will support those who are in youth and health, and chuse to exert their endeavours: and with regard to the aged and infirm, our laws have provided a parish supply; which if not as ample as could be wished, is sufficient for the support of nature: so that no person can be justified in the commission of an act of dishonesty.



Account of the extraordinary Case of GEORGE PRICE, who was convicted of the *Murder* of his *Wife*.

**T**HIS malefactor was a native of the Hay, in Brecknockshire, where he lived as a servant to a widow lady, who was so extremely partial to him, that the neighbours circulated reports to their mutual prejudice. Having lived in this station seven years, he repaired to London, where he got places in two respectable families, and then returned to his former service in Wales; when his mistress treated him with such distinction, that the country people became more severe in their censures than before.

On his quitting this lady a second time, she made him a present of a valuable watch, which he brought to London; and then engaged in the service of — Brown, Esq. of Golden-square, who used to make frequent excursions to Hampstead, attended by his servant.

Price now became acquainted with Mary Chambers, servant at a public-house at Hampstead, whom he married at the expiration of a fortnight from his first paying his addressee to her: but Mr. Brown disapproving of the match, dismissed Price from his service.

Soon after this he took his wife into Brecknockshire, and imposed her on his relations as the daughter of a military officer, who would become entitled to a large fortune. He was treated in the most friendly manner by his relations; and the young couple returning to London, the wife went to lodge at Hampstead, while Price engaged in the service of a gentleman in New Broadstreet.

Mrs. Price being delivered of twins, desired her husband to buy some medicines, to make the children sleep, which he procured; and the children dying soon afterwards, a report was circulated that he had poisoned them; but this circumstance he denied to the last moment of his life.

In a short time Price's master removed into Kent, whither he attended him; and in the interim his wife was again brought to bed; a circumstance that greatly chagrined him; as he had now made other connections, and grew weary of the support of his own family. Shortly afterwards Mrs. Price was again pregnant, on which he told her he could not support any more children, and recommended her to take medicines to procure an abortion; which was accordingly done, and the horrid intention was answered.

Price now paid his addressee to a widow in Kent, and conceiving his wife as an obstacle between

tween him and his wishes he formed the infernal resolution of murdering her.

Having been bruised by a fall from his horse, and his master having business in London, he was left behind, to take his passage in a Margate Hov, as soon as his health would permit: and on his arrival at Billingsgate, his wife was waiting to receive him, in the hope of obtaining some money towards her present support.

Price no sooner beheld her than he began to concert the plan of the intended murder: on which he told her that he had procured the place of a nursery-maid for her in the neighbourhood of Putney, and that he would attend her thither that very day. He then directed her to clean herself, and meet him at the Woolpack in Monkwell-street.

In her way to her lodgings she called at the house of her husband's master, where the servants advised her not to trust herself in her husband's company; but she said she had no fear of him, as he had treated her with unusual kindness. Accordingly she went home and dressed herself, (having borrowed some cloaths of her landlady) and met her husband, who put her in a chaise, and drove her out of town towards Hounslow.

As they were riding along, she begged he would stop while she bought some snuff, which he, in a laughing manner, refused to do, saying she would never want any again. When he came on Hounslow-Heath it was near ten o'clock at night, when he suddenly stopped the chaise, and threw the lash of the whip round his wife's neck: but drawing it too hastily, he made a violent mark on her chin; but immediately finding his mistake, he placed it lower; on which she exclaimed, "My dear! my dear! for God's sake  
" —if

“ —if this is your love I will never trust you  
“ more.”

Immediately on her pronouncing these words, which were her last, he pulled the ends of the whip with great force: but the violence of his passion abating, he let go before she was quite dead: yet resolving to accomplish the horrid deed, he once more put the thong of the whip about her neck, and pulled it with such violence that it broke; but not till the poor woman was dead.

Having stripped the body he left it almost under a gibbet where some malefactors hung in chains, having first disfigured it to such a degree that he presumed it could not be known. He brought the cloaths to London, some of which he cut in pieces, and dropped in different streets; but knowing that others were borrowed of the landlady, he sent them to her; a circumstance that materially conduced to his conviction.

He reached London about one o'clock in the morning, and being interrogated why he came at such an unseasonable hour, he said that the Margate Hoy had been detained in the river by contrary winds.

On the following day the servants, and other people, made so many enquiries respecting his wife, that, terrified at the idea of being taken into custody, he immediately fled to Portsmouth, with a view of entering on board a ship; but no vessel was then ready to sail.

While he was drinking at an alehouse in Portsmouth, he heard the bell-man crying him as a murderer, with so exact a description of him, that he was apprehensive of being seized; and observing a window which opened to the water, he jumped out, and swam for his life.

Having



Having gained the shore, he travelled all night, till he reached a farm-house, where he enquired for employment. The farmer's wife said he did not appear as if he had been used to country-work; but he might stay till her husband's arrival.

The farmer regarded him with great attention, and said he wanted a plowman, but he was certain that he would not answer his purpose, as he had the appearance of a person who had absconded for debt; or possibly there might be some criminal prosecution against him.

Price expressed his readiness to do any thing for an honest subsistence; but the farmer refused to employ him; though he said he would give him a supper and a lodging. But when bedtime came, the farmer's men refused to sleep with Price, in the fear of his robbing them of their cloaths: in consequence of which he was obliged to lay on some straw in the barn.

On the following day he crossed the country towards Oxford, where he endeavoured to get into service, and would have been engaged by a physician, but happening to read a newspaper in which he was advertised, he immediately decamped from Oxford, and travelled into Wales.

Having stopped at a village a few miles from Hay, at the house of a shoemaker to whom his brother was apprenticed, the latter obtained his master's permission to accompany his brother home; and while they were on their walk the malefactor recounted the particulars of the murder, which had obliged him to seek his safety in flight.

The brother commiserated his condition; and, leaving him at a small distance from their father's house, went in, and found the old gentleman read-

reading an advertisement, describing the murderer. The younger son bursting into tears, the father said he hoped his brother was not come; to which the youth replied, "Yes, he is at the door; but being afraid that some of the neighbours were in the house, he would not come in till he had your permission."

The offender being introduced, fell on his knees, and earnestly besought his father's blessing; to which the aged parent said, "Ah! George, I wish God may bless you; and what I have heard concerning you may be false." The son said, "It is false; but let me have a private room: make no words: I have done no harm: let me have a room to myself."

Being accommodated agreeable to his request, he produced half a crown, begging that his brother would buy a lancet, as he was resolved to put a period to his miserable existence: but the brother declined to be any way aiding to the commission of the crime of suicide; and the father, after exerting every argument to prevent his thinking of such a violation of the laws of God, concealed him for two days.

It happened that the neighbours observing a fire in a room where none had been for a considerable time before, a report was propagated that Price was secreted in the house of his father; whereupon he thought it prudent to abscond in the night: and having reached Gloucester, he went to an inn, and procured the place of an ostler.

The terrors of his conscience now agitated him to such a degree, that the other servants could not help asking what ailed him; to which he replied, that a girl he had courted having married  
and

another man, he had never been able to enjoy any peace of mind since.

During his residence at Gloucester, two of the sons of the lady with whom he had first lived as a servant, happened to be at a school in that city, and Price behaved to them with so much civility, that they wrote to their mother, describing his conduct; in reply to which she informed them that he had killed his wife, and desired them not to hold any correspondence with him.

The young gentlemen mentioning this circumstance, one of Price's fellow-servants said to him, "You are the man that murdered your wife on Hounslow-Heath. I will not betray you; but if you stay longer, you will certainly be taken into custody."

Stung by the reflections of his own conscience, and agitated by the fear of momentary detection, Price knew not how to act: but at length he resolved to come to London, and surrender to justice; and calling on his former master, and being apprehended, he was committed to Newgate.

At the following sessions at the Old Bailey, he was brought to his trial, and convicted on almost the strongest circumstantial evidence that was ever adduced against any offender. He had prepared a written defence; but declined reading it, as he found it was so little likely to operate with any effect in his favour.

He was sentenced to death: but died in Newgate before the law could be executed on him, on the 22d of October, 1738.

We are taught, in the case of this unhappy wretch and his wife, some very useful lessons of instruction. Price was guilty of murder in a complicated sense. He first advised his wife to

take medicines to procure abortion; and then actually murdered her who could be base enough to follow such pernicious advice: thus she, as is but too commonly the case in instances of departure from the laws of God, fell a sacrifice to the passions of her seducer.

What must have been the thoughts of this unhappy wretch, when, after having murdered his wife, he deposited her body almost under the gibbet on Hounslow-Heath! What must have been the terrors of his conscience when he heard his person minutely described by the bell-man at Portsmouth! What must be his feelings when he discovered his guilt to his brother, and when he met the eye of his offended parent! How agonized must his mind have been when he desired his brother to buy a lancet, that he might add suicide to murder! In a word, what terrors must this most unhappy wretch have felt in his peregrinations through the country, from his commission of the crime to his surrender to justice, and thence to the moment of his exit!

If ever any man could, well might he say, in the words of scripture, "A wounded spirit who can bear?"

From this melancholy narrative it is easy to learn that peace of mind must result from a conscientious discharge of our duty, and that the farther we depart from it, so much the greater advances we make towards final and irretrievable destruction!





A full Account of the Life and Transactions of the famous RICHARD TURPIN, who was Hanged at *York*, for *Horse-Stealing*.

THE transactions of this malefactor made a greater noise in the world at the time they happened than those of almost any other offender whose life we have recorded: and we shall therefore be the more particular in our account of him.

He was the son of John Turpin, a farmer at Hempstead in Essex, and having received a common school education, was apprenticed to a butcher in Whitechapel; but was distinguished from his early youth for the impropriety of his behaviour, and the brutality of his manners.

On the expiration of his apprenticeship he married a young woman of East Ham in Essex, named Palmer: but he had not been long married before he took to the practice of stealing his neighbours cattle, which he used to kill and cut up for sale.

Having stolen two oxen belonging to Mr. Giles of Plaistow, he drove them to his own house; but two of Giles's servants suspecting who was the robber, went to Turpin's, where they saw two beasts of such size as had been lost; but as the hides were stripped from them, it was impossible to say that they were the same: but learning that Turpin used to dispose of his hides at Waltham-Abbey, they went thither, and saw the hides of the individual beasts that had been stolen.

No doubt now remaining who was the robber, a warrant was procured for the apprehension of Turpin; but learning that the peace-officers

were in search of him, he made his escape from the back-window of his house, at the very moment that the others were entering at the door.

Having retreated to a place of security, he found means to inform his wife where he was concealed; on which she furnished him with money, with which he travelled into the hundreds of Essex, where he joined a gang of smugglers, with whom he was for some time successful; till a set of the Custom-house officers, by one successful stroke, deprived him of all his ill-acquired gains.

Thrown out of this kind of business, he connected himself with a gang of deer-stealers, the principal part of whose depredations were committed on Epping-Forest, and the parks in its neighbourhood: but this business not succeeding to the expectation of the robbers, they determined to commence house-breakers.

Their plan was to fix on houses that they presumed contained any valuable property; and, while one of them knocked at the door, the others were to rush in, and seize whatever they might deem worthy of their notice.

Their first attack of this kind was at the house of Mr. Strype, an old man who kept a chandler's shop at Watford, whom they robbed of all the money in his possession, but did not offer him any personal abuse.

Turpin now acquainted his associates that there was an old woman at Loughton, who was in possession of seven or eight hundred pounds; whereupon they agreed to rob her; and when they came to the door, one of them knocked, and the rest forcing their way into the house, tied handkerchiefs over the eyes of the old woman and her maid.

This

This being done, Turpin demanded what money was in the house; and the owner hesitating to tell him, he threatened to set her on the fire if she did not make an immediate discovery. Still, however, she declined to give the desired information; on which the villains actually placed her on the fire, where she sat till the tormenting pains compelled her to discover her hidden treasure; so that the robbers possessed themselves of above four hundred pounds, and decamped with the booty.

Some little time after this they agreed to rob the house of a farmer near Barking; and knocking at the door, the people declined to open it; on which they broke it open; and having bound the farmer, his wife, his son-in-law, and the servant-maid, they robbed the house of above seven hundred pounds; which delighted Turpin so much, that he exclaimed, "Aye, this will do, " if it would always be so!" and the robbers retired with their prize, which amounted to above eighty pounds for each of them.

This desperate gang, now flushed with success, determined to attack the house of Mr. Mason, the keeper of Epping-Forest; and the time was fixed when the plan was to be carried into execution: but Turpin having gone to London, to spend his share of the former booty, intoxicated himself to such a degree that he totally forgot the appointment.

Nevertheless, the rest of the gang resolved that the absence of their companion should not frustrate the proposed design; and having taken a solemn oath to break every article of furniture in Mason's house, they set out on their expedition.

Having gained admission, they beat and kicked the unhappy man with great severity. Find-  
ing

ing an old man sitting by the fire-side, they permitted him to remain uninjured; and Mr. Mason's daughter escaped their fury, by running out of the house, and taking shelter in a hog-stie.

After ransacking the lower part of the house, and doing much mischief, they went up stairs, where they broke every thing that fell in their way, and among the rest a China punch-bowl, from which dropped one hundred and twenty guineas, which they made prey of, and effected their escape. They now went to London in search of Turpin, with whom they shared the booty, though he had not taken an active part in the execution of the villainy.

On the 11th of January, 1735, Turpin and five of his companions went to the house of Mr. Saunders, a rich farmer at Charlton in Kent, between seven and eight in the evening, and having knocked at the door, asked if Mr. Saunders was at home. Being answered in the affirmative, they rushed into the house, and found Mr. Saunders, with his wife and friends, playing at cards in the parlour. They told the company that they should remain uninjured if they made no disturbance. Having made prize of a silver snuff-box which lay on the table, a part of the gang stood guard over the rest of the company, while the others, attended Mr. Saunders through the house, and breaking open his escrutores and closets, stole above a hundred pounds, exclusive of plate.

During these transactions the servant-maid ran up stairs, barred the door of her room, and called out "Thieves," with a view of alarming the neighbourhood: but the robbers broke open the door of her room, secured her, and then robbed the house of all the valuable property they had  
not



not before taken. Finding some minced-pies, and some bottles of wine, they sat down to regale themselves; and meeting with a bottle of brandy, they compelled each of the company to drink a glass of it.

Mrs. Saunders fainting through terror, they administered some drops in water to her, and recovered her to the use of her senses. Having staid in the house a considerable time, they packed up their booty and departed, having first declared that if any of the family gave the least alarm within two hours, or advertised the marks of the stolen plate, they would return and murder them at a future time.

Retiring to a public-house at Woolwich, where they had concerted the robbery, they crossed the Thames to an empty house in Ratcliffe-Highway, where they deposited the stolen effects till they found a purchaser for them.

The division of the plunder having taken place, they, on the 18th of the same month, went to the house of Mr. Sheldon, near Croydon in Surry, where they arrived about seven in the evening. Having got into the yard, they perceived a light in the stable, and going into it, found the coachman attending his horses. Having immediately bound him, they quitted the stable, and meeting Mr. Sheldon in the yard, they seized him, and compelling him to conduct them into the house, they stole eleven guineas, with the jewels, plate, and other things of value, to a large amount. Having committed this robbery, they returned Mr. Sheldon two guineas, and apologized for their conduct.

This being done, they hastened to the Black-Horse in the Broad-way Westminster, where they concerted the robbery of Mr. Lawrence of Edg-



ware, near Stanmore in Middlesex, for which place they set out on the 4th of February, and arrived at a public-house in that village about five o'clock in the evening. From this place they went to Mr. Lawrence's house, where they arrived about seven o'clock, just as he had discharged some people who had worked for him.

Having quitted their horses at the outer-gate, one of the robbers going forwards, found a boy who had just returned from folding his sheep: the rest of the gang following, a pistol was presented, and instant destruction threatened if he made any noise. They then took off his garters, and tied his hands, and told him to direct them to the door, and, when they knocked, to answer, and bid the servants open it, in which case they would not hurt him: but when the boy came to the door he was so terrified that he could not speak; on which one of the gang knocked, and a man-servant, imagining it was one of the neighbours, opened the door, whereupon they all rushed in, armed with pistols.

Having seized Mr. Lawrence and his servant, they threw a cloth over their faces, and taking the boy into another room, demanded what fire-arms were in the house; to which he replied only an old gun, which they broke in pieces. They then bound Mr. Lawrence and his man, and made them sit by the boy; and Turpin searching the gentleman, took from him a guinea, a Portugal piece, and some silver: but not being satisfied with this booty, they forced him to conduct them up stairs, where they broke open a closet, and stole some money and plate: but that not being sufficient to satisfy them, they threatened to murder Mr. Lawrence, each of them destining him to a different death, as the savageness of his  
own

own nature prompted him. At length one of them took a kettle of water from the fire, and threw it over him; but it providentially happened not to be hot enough to scald him.

In the interim the maid-servant, who was churning butter in the dairy, hearing a noise in the house, apprehended some mischief; on which she blew out her candle, to screen herself: but being found in the course of their search, one of the miscreants compelled her to go up stairs, where he gratified his brutal passion by force. They then robbed the house of all the valuable effects they could find, locked the family into the parlour, threw the key into the garden, and took their ill-gotten plunder to London.

The particulars of this atrocious robbery being represented to the king, a proclamation was issued for the apprehension of the offenders, promising a pardon to any one of them who would impeach his accomplices; and a reward of fifty pounds was offered, to be paid on conviction. This, however, had no effect; the robbers continued their depredations as before; and, flushed with the success they had met with, seemed to bid defiance to the laws.

On the 7th of February six of them assembled at the White-Bear-Inn in Drury-Lane, where they agreed to rob the house of Mr. Francis, a farmer near Marybone. Arriving at the place, they found a servant in the cow-house, whom they bound fast, and threatened to murder him if he was not perfectly silent. This being done, they led him into the stable, where finding another of the servants, they bound him in the same manner.

In the interim Mr. Francis happening to come home, they presented their pistols to his breast, and threatened instant destruction to him, if he made the least noise or opposition.

Having bound the master in the stable with his servants, they rushed into the house, tied Mrs. Francis, her daughter, and the maid-servant, and beat them in a most cruel manner. One of the thieves stood as a centry while the rest rifled the house, in which they found a silver tankard, a medal of Charles the First, a gold watch, several gold rings, a considerable sum of money, and a variety of valuable linen and other effects, which they conveyed to London.

Hereupon a reward of an hundred pounds was offered for the apprehension of the offenders; in consequence of which two of them were taken into custody, tried, convicted on the evidence of an accomplice, and hanged in chains: and the whole gang being dispersed, Turpin went into the country, to renew his depredations on the public.

On a journey towards Cambridge he met a man genteelly dressed, and well mounted; and expecting a good booty, he presented a pistol to the supposed gentleman, and demanded his money. The party thus stopped happened to be one King, a famous highwayman, who knew Turpin; and when the latter threatened instant destruction if he did not deliver his money, King burst into a fit of laughter, and said, "What dog eat dog?—Come, come, brother Turpin; if you don't know me, I know you, and shall be glad of your company."

These brethren in iniquity soon struck the bargain, and immediately entering on business, com-  
mitted

mitted a number of robberies; till at length they were so well known that no public house would receive them as guests. Thus situated, they fixed on a spot between the King's-Oak and the Loughton Road, on Epping-Forest, where they made a cave which was large enough to receive them and their horses.

This cave was enclosed within a sort of thicket of bushes and brambles, through which they could look and see passengers on the road, while themselves remained unobserved.

From this station they used to issue, and robbed such a number of persons, that at length the very pedlars who travelled the road carried fire-arms for their defence: and while they were in this retreat Turpin's wife used to supply them with necessaries, and frequently remained in the cave during the night.

Having taken a ride as far as Bungay in Suffolk, they observed two young women receive fourteen pounds for corn, on which Turpin resolved to rob them of the money. King objected, saying it was pity to rob such pretty girls; but Turpin was obstinate, and obtained the booty.

Upon their return home on the following day, they stopped a Mr. Bradele of London, who was riding in his chariot with his children. The gentleman, seeing only one robber, was preparing to make resistance, when King called to Turpin to hold the horses. They took from the gentleman his watch, money, and an old mourning ring; but returned the latter, as he declared that its intrinsic value was trifling, yet he was very unwilling to part from it.

Finding that they readily parted with the ring, he asked them what he must give for the watch:



on which King said to Turpin, "What say ye Jack\*?—Here seems to be a good honest fellow; shall we let him have the watch?"—Turpin replied, "Do as you please:" on which King said to the gentleman, "You must pay six guineas for it: We never sell for more, though the watch should be worth six and thirty." The gentleman promised that the money should be left at the Dial in Birchin-Lane, where they might receive it, and no questions would be asked.†

Not long after this Turpin was guilty of murder, which arose from the following circumstance. A reward of an hundred pounds having been offered for apprehending him, the servant of a gentleman named Thompson went out with a higer, to try if they could take this notorious offender. Turpin seeing them approach near his dwelling, Mr. Thompson's man having a gun, he mistook them for poachers; on which he said there were no hares near that thicket: "No (said Thompson's servant) but I have found a Turpin;" and presenting his gun, required him to surrender.

Hereupon Turpin spoke to him, as in a friendly manner, and gradually retreated at the same time, till having seized his own gun, he  
shot

\* King always called Turpin by the name of Jack.

† It was formerly a common practice to advertise that if stolen goods were left at a particular place mentioned in the advertisement, a certain reward would be paid, and *no questions asked*; but this has been happily abolished by the better policy of modern times.







*Wingard delin.*

**RICHARD TURPIN**, *Shooting a Man near his*  
*Cave on Epping Forest.*

*Roberts sculp.*

shot him dead on the spot, and the highler ran off with the utmost precipitation.

This transaction making a great noise in the neighbourhood, Turpin went farther into the country in search of his old companion, King; and in the mean time sent a letter to his wife, to meet him at a public-house at Hertford. The woman attended according to this direction; and her husband coming into the house soon after she arrived, a butcher to whom he owed five pounds happened to see him; on which he said, "Come, Dick, I know you have money now; and if you will pay me it will be of great service."

Turpin told him that his wife was in the next room; that she had money, and that he should be paid immediately: but while the butcher was hinting to some of his acquaintance, that the person present was Turpin, and that they might take him into custody after he had received his debt, the highwayman made his escape through a window, and rode off with great expedition.

Turpin having found King, and a man named Potter, who had lately connected himself with them, they set off towards London in the dusk of the evening; but when they came near the Green Man on Epping-Forest, they overtook a Mr. Major, who riding on a very fine horse, and Turpin's beast being jaded, he obliged the rider to dismount, and exchange horses.

The robbers now pursued their journey towards London, and Mr. Major going to the Green Man, gave an account of the affair; on which it was conjectured that Turpin had been the robber, and that the horse which he had exchanged must have been stolen.

It was on a Saturday evening that this robbery was committed; but Mr. Major being advised to



print hand-bills immediately, notice was given to the landlord of the Green Man, that such a horse as Mr. Major had lost, had been left at the Red-Lion in Whitechapel. The landlord going thither, determined to wait till some person came for it; and, at about eleven at night, King's brother came to pay for the horse and take him away; on which he was immediately seized, and conducted into the house.

Being asked what right he had to the horse, he said he had bought it: but the landlord examining a whip which he had in his hand, found a button at the end of the handle half broken off, and the name of Major on the remaining half. Hereupon he was given into custody of a constable: but as it was not supposed that he was the actual robber, he was told that he should have his liberty, if he would discover his employer.

Hereupon he said that a stout man, in a white duffil coat, was waiting for the horse in Red-Lion-Street; on which the company going thither, saw King, who drew a pistol, and attempted to fire it, but it flashed in the pan: he then endeavoured to pull out another pistol, but he could not, as it got entangled in his pocket.

At this time Turpin was watching at a small distance: and riding towards the spot, King cried out "Shoot him, or we are taken:" on which Turpin fired, and shot his companion, who called out "Dick, you have killed me;" which the other hearing, rode off at full speed.

King lived a week after this affair, and gave information that Turpin might be found at a house near Hackney-Marsh; and on enquiry it was discovered that Turpin had been there on the night that he rode off, lamenting that he had  
killed

killed King, who was the most faithful associate he had ever had in his life.

For a considerable time did Turpin skulk about the forest, having been deprived of his retreat in the cave since he shot the servant of Mr. Thompson. On the examination of this cave there were found two shirts, two pair of stockings, a piece of ham, and part of a bottle of wine.

Some vain attempts were made to take this notorious offender into custody; and among the rest the huntsman of a gentleman in the neighbourhood went in search of him with bloodhounds. Turpin perceiving them, got into a tree, under which the hounds passed, to his inexpressible terror, so that he determined to make a retreat into Yorkshire.

Going first to Long-Sutton in Lincolnshire, he stole some horses; for which he was taken into custody; but he escaped from the constable as he was conducting him before a magistrate, and hastened to Welton in Yorkshire, where he went by the name of John Palmer, and assumed the character of a gentleman.

He now frequently went into Lincolnshire, where he stole horses, which he brought into Yorkshire, and either sold or exchanged them.

He often accompanied the neighbouring gentlemen on their parties of hunting and shooting; and one evening, on a return from an expedition of the latter kind, he wantonly shot a cock belonging to his landlord. On this Mr. Hall, a neighbour, said, "You have done wrong in shooting your landlord's cock;" to which Turpin replied, that if he would stay while he loaded his gun he would shoot him also.

Irritated by this insult, Mr. Hall informed the landlord of what had passed; and application being



ing made to some magistrates, a warrant was granted for the apprehension of the offender, who being taken into custody, and carried before a bench of justices then assembled at the quarter sessions at Beverley, they demanded security for his good behaviour, which he being unable or unwilling to give, was committed to Bridewell.

On enquiry it appeared that he made frequent journies into Lincolnshire, and on his return he always abounded in money, and was likewise in possession of several horses; so that it was conjectured that he was a horse-stealer and highwayman.

On this the magistrates went to him on the following day, and demanded who he was, where he had lived, and what was his employment. He replied in substance, “ that about two years ago “ he had lived at Long-Sutton in Lincolnshire, “ and was by trade a butcher; but that having “ contracted several debts for sheep that proved “ rotten, he was obliged to abscond, and come to “ live in Yorkshire.”

The magistrates not being satisfied with this tale, commissioned the clerk of the peace to write into Lincolnshire, to make the necessary enquiries respecting the supposed John Palmer. The letter was carried by a special messenger, who brought an answer from a magistrate in the neighbourhood, importing that John Palmer was well known, though he had never carried on trade there: that he had been accused of sheep-stealing, for which he had been in custody, but had made his escape from the peace-officers; and that there were several informations lodged against him for horse-stealing.

Hereupon the magistrates thought it prudent to remove him to York-Castle, where he had not  
been

been more than a month, when two persons from Lincolnshire came and claimed a mare and foal, and likewise a horse, which he had stolen in that county.

After he had been about four months in prison he wrote the following letter to his brother in Essex.

“ Dear Brother,                      York, Feb. 6, 1739.

**I** AM sorry to acquaint you that I am now under confinement in York Castle, for horse-stealing. If I could procure an evidence from London to give me a character, that would go a great way towards my being acquitted. I had not been long in this country before my being apprehended, so that it would pass off the readier. For Heaven's sake, dear brother, do not neglect me; you will know what I mean, when I say——

I am Yours,

JOHN PALMER.

This letter being returned, unopened, to the Post-Office in Essex, because the brother would not pay the postage of it, was accidentally seen by Mr. Smith, a schoolmaster, who having taught Turpin to write, immediately knew his hand, on which he carried the letter to a magistrate, who broke it open; by which it was discovered that the supposed John Palmer was the real Richard Turpin.

Hereupon the magistrates of Essex dispatched Mr. Smith to York, who immediately selected him from all the other prisoners in the castle. This Mr. Smith and another gentleman afterwards proved his identity on his trial.

On the rumour that the noted Turpin was a prisoner in York Castle, persons flocked from all parts of the country to take a view of him, and debates ran very high whether he was the real person or not. Among others who visited him was a young fellow who pretended to know the famous Turpin, and having regarded him a considerable time with looks of great attention, he told the keeper he would bet him half a guinea that he was not Turpin; on which the prisoner, whispering the keeper, said "Lay him the wager, and I'll go your halves."

When this notorious malefactor was brought to trial he was convicted on two indictments, and received sentence of death.

After conviction he wrote to his father, imploring him to intercede with a gentleman and lady of rank, to make interest that his sentence might be remitted; and that he might be transported. The father did what was in his power; but the notoriety of his character was such, that no persons would exert themselves in his favour.

This man lived in the most gay and thoughtless manner after conviction, regardless of all considerations of futurity, and affecting to make a jest of the dreadful fate that awaited him.

Not many days before his execution, he purchased a new fustian frock and a pair of pumps, in order to wear them at the time of his death; and, on the day before, he hired five poor men, at ten shillings each, to follow the cart as mourners; and he gave hatbands and gloves to several other persons: and he also left a ring, and some other articles, to a married woman in Lincolnshire, with whom he had been acquainted.

On the morning of his death he was put into a cart, and being followed by his mourners, as  
above-

above-mentioned, he was drawn to the place of execution, in his way to which he bowed to the spectators with an air of the most astonishing indifference and intrepidity.

When he came to the fatal tree, he ascended the ladder; when his right leg trembling, he stamped it down with an air of assumed courage, as if he was ashamed to be observed to discover any signs of fear. Having conversed with the executioner about half an hour, he threw himself off the ladder and expired in a few minutes.

He suffered at York, on the tenth of April, 1739.

The spectators of the execution seemed to be much affected at the fate of this man, who was distinguished by the comeliness of his appearance. The corps was brought to the Blue Boar, in Castle-Gate, York, where it remained till the next morning, when it was interred in the Church-yard of St. George's parish, with an inscription on the coffin, with the initials of his name, and his age. The grave was made remarkably deep, and the people who acted as mourners took such measures as they thought would secure the body; yet about three o'clock on the following morning, some people were observed in the church-yard, who carried it off; and the populace having an intimation whither it was conveyed, found it in a garden belonging to one of the surgeons of the city.

Hercupon they took the body, laid it on a board, and having carried it through the streets, in a kind of triumphal manner, and then filled the coffin with unslackened, lime, buried it in the grave where it had been before deposited.

We see in the case of this malefactor, what slight circumstances may lead to the conviction



of the most notorious offender. The shooting of a cock, in the meer wantonness of his heart, occasioned Turpin's being taken into custody: the scrutiny into his character followed of course; and he was brought to condign punishment by an accident that would have been laughed at by any man of unblemished reputation.

His brother refusing to pay the postage of his letter was another circumstance apparently trivial; yet this produced that sort of evidence which most materially affected him, by the school-master's proving that he was the identical Turpin, who had been so notorious for his enormous offences in the southern counties.

It is not impossible but that he might have been pardoned, or transported, after a simple conviction for horse-stealing: but the notoriety of his character drew down certain destruction on his head.

Hence then, the young, the thoughtless, and all those whose dispositions may tempt them to acts of dishonesty, should learn the high value of an unblemished reputation; should consider that a good character is above all price, and that it ought to be preserved as a more precious jewel than could be purchased by all the riches of the eastern world!

In a word, the laws of the great Creator are, in every instance, so compatible with, and so productive of, the interest and happiness of mankind, that one would think no man could violate them, who did not wilfully seek his own destruction!





Account of ABRAHAM WELLS, who was  
Hanged at *Tyburn* for *Horse-Stealing*.

THIS malefactor was the son of a carpenter at Endfield, who was at some expence to give him a common school education; but the boy was such a dunce, or so idle, that it was impossible to teach him even to learn to read with any degree of propriety.

Having served his time to a butcher at his native place, he engaged in business for himself; and sold considerable quantities of meat by wholesale at the London markets. He paid his addresses to a widow of some fortune, whom he married: but she prudently reserved a part of her property to her own use.

When Wells had been married some time, he became so uneasy that his wife opposed his extravagance; that, being unhappy at home, he kept bad company, though it was some years before he committed the crime which cost him his life.

A man being indicted at the Old Bailey for horse-stealing, Wells became an evidence in his favour: but his testimony was of such a nature, that he was committed to Newgate for perjury, and not released till he had suffered six months imprisonment and paid a fine.

He had now frequent quarrels with his wife and her relations; in consequence of which he neglected his business, so that he lost the greater part of his customers. Thus distressed in mind and circumstances, he stole a horse from a field near Edmonton, which he took to Smithfield Market, and offered to sale; but the owner of the horse having repaired to London before him, had him

taken into custody on the spot, and carried before a magistrate, who committed him to prison.

Previous to his trial he caused some of his relations to be served with subpoenas, to give evidence respecting him; and among the rest two of his wife's brothers: but these men, instead of endeavouring to alleviate his distress, represented him to the court as a man of abandoned character, who had long since deserved the severest sentence of the law: nay, so virulent was their malice, that they told the court the circumstance of his having been committed for perjury, as above-mentioned. This conduct was justly censured by the judges, who represented the cruelty of their endeavouring to injure a man whom they were called in to serve; and observed that with regard to the perjury, he had already suffered the sentence of the law, so that it had no reference to the case in hand.

The evidence against him being clear and positive, conviction followed of course, and he received sentence of death.

After conviction he spoke with the utmost bitterness of reproach, respecting the conduct of his wife and relations; and though the former repeatedly went to Newgate, he constantly refused to see her, till within a few days of his death, when the approaching horror of his fate seemed to have made such an impression on his mind, that he consented to receive her visit.

On their first meeting they wrung their hands in an agony of grief, but floods of tears coming to their relief, their affliction in some degree subsided; and then they mutually recriminated on each other; the wife abused the husband for ruining his family; and he said that she had been the occasion of his present misfortunes.

On her next visit he again censured her conduct; on which she charged him with having associated with another woman; but this he solemnly denied, on the words of a dying man; and averred that the affair had no foundation but in the jealousy of her own disposition. The Ordinary of Newgate now interposed, and represented to Mrs. Wells the extreme impropriety of censuring a man in her husband's unhappy circumstances.

On the day before his death his mind was agitated to such a degree, that it was thought he might be guilty of suicide, on which a man was engaged to be with him, to prevent the dreadful consequences: but his mind soon became more composed, and he employed himself in exercises of devotion.

When he arrived at the fatal tree, he lamented the errors of his past life in the most affecting manner: but even at that solemn period he could not help reflecting on his wife's relations, who, he said, had promoted his ruin.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 30th of May, 1739, appearing, in his last moments, more resigned than he had been for a considerable time before.

Though the misfortunes of this malefactor must have originated in a great measure from his own vices, yet it is no ungenerous supposition to conclude that, the jealousy of his wife, and the unfeeling disposition of her relations, contributed, in some degree, to his destruction.

Jealousy, either in man or woman, is the bane of happiness in the married life. It is said that women are more apt to be jealous than men, from the superior tenderness of their affections. Be this as it may, it is the duty of every married couple to guard, with the utmost caution, against the

the inroads of a passion which must infallibly prey on their very vitals, and make them inexpressibly wretched as long as they indulge it.

With regard to the cruelty of Wells's relations, who gave him, on his trial, the worst character they possibly could, it must be attributed to the malignity of their own hearts: but it is impossible not to execrate wretches who could thus sport with the calamities of the afflicted, and render misery still more miserable.

Let the readers of this narrative implore the Divine disposer of all blessings to bestow on them hearts of sensibility and tenderness; that, by the assistance of Almighty God, they may promote the happiness of their fellow-creatures, by the very same means that contribute to the advancement of their own.



Account of the Case of JAMES CALD-  
GLOUGH, who was Hanged at *Tyburn* for  
*Robbery*.

THE city of Durham gave birth to this offender, who was the son of people of fair character, who having given him a decent education, put him apprentice to a shoemaker, with whom he lived about three years, when having contracted a habit of idleness, and being attached to bad company, he quitted his master, and enlisted in the second regiment of foot-guards.

He had not been long in London before he became acquainted with a fellow named Thomas, who offered to put him into an easy way of getting money; and Caldcrough listening to his invitation, dined with Thomas and some of his associates, on a Sunday, at a public-house; and afterwards



terwards attended them to Newington-Green, where they continued drinking for some time, and at the approach of evening set out towards London, with a view of robbing such persons as they might meet.

As they crossed the fields towards Hoxton, they stopped a gentleman, whom they robbed of a watch, and some silver, and tying him to a gate, they retired to a public-house in Brick-Lane, Old-Street, where they spent the night in riot and drunkenness.

Caldclough being a young fellow of genteel appearance, and remarkable spirit, his accomplices advised him to commence highwayman; but none of them having money to purchase horses, and other necessaries to equip them in a genteel manner, it was determined that two of the gang should commit a robbery which might put them in a way of committing others.

With this view they went into Kent, and stole two horses, which they placed at a livery-stable near Moorfields: after which the gang went in a body to Welling in Hertfordshire, where they broke open a house, and stole about fourteen pounds in money and some things of value, which furnished them with cloaths, and the other requisites for their intended expedition.

Thus provided, they rode to Enfield Chace, where they robbed the passengers in a stage-coach of their watches and money; and soon afterwards stopped another coach in the road to Epping-Forest, from which they got a large booty, which they divided at their place of meeting in Brick-Lane, Old-Street, and spent the night in licentious revelry.

But a short time had passed after this robbery, when Caldclough and one of his companions rode to Epping Forest, and having stopped a coach in which were two gentlemen and a young lady; a servant that was behind the coach would have attacked the robbers, but that the gentlemen desired him to desist, that the young lady might not be terrified. The gentlemen then gave the robbers their money, apologizing for the smallness of the sum, and saying that they should have been welcome to more had it been in their possession.

As they were riding towards London, after committing this robbery, they quitted their horses and fastened them to a tree, in order to rob the Woodford stage-coach, which they observed to be full of passengers: but the coachman suspecting their intent, drove off with such expedition, that they could not overtake the carriage.

Disappointed in this attempt they rode towards Wanstead, where there saw another coach, the passengers in which they intended to have robbed: but as a number of butchers from London rode close behind the carriage, they thought proper to desist from so dangerous an attempt.

Thus disappointed of the expected booty, Caldclough and Thomas, on the following day, which was Sunday, rode to Stamford-Hill, where they robbed three persons of their watches, and about four pounds in cash. Flushed with this success they determined to put every person they should meet under contribution: in consequence of which they robbed seven persons more before they reached London, from whom they obtained about ten guineas, with which they retired to the old place of resort in Brick-Lane.

Soon after this they rode to Finchley Common, where meeting with only empty carriages, they were returning to London, when they met the Barnet coach, near Islington, and robbed the company of about fifteen shillings. On the following day they collected six shillings and sixpence from another of the Barnet coaches, and nine shillings from the Highgate stage, on their return to town: and this was the whole of the poor booty they obtained this day, at the imminent risk of their lives.

A few days afterwards Caldclough and another of the gang stopped a person of very decent appearance near Hackney, and demanded his money: but the gentleman, bursting into tears, said he was in circumstances of distress, and possessed only eighteen pence; on which, instead of robbing him, they made him a present of half a crown: a proof that sentiments of humanity may not be utterly banished even from the breast of a thief. On their return to town they robbed a man of fourteen shillings, and then went to their old place of retreat.

On the day after this transaction they went to the Red-Lion alehouse in Aldersgate-Street, where having drank all day, and being unable to pay the reckoning, they called for more liquor, and then quitted the house, saying that they would soon return. Going immediately towards Islington, they met a gentleman to whom they said that they wanted a small sum to pay their reckoning. On this the gentleman called out thieves! and made all possible resistance; notwithstanding which they robbed him of a gold watch, which they carried to town and pawned, and then going to the alehouse, defrayed the expences of the day.



## NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR.

In a little time after this one of the gang sold the two horses which had been stolen as above-mentioned, and appropriated the money to his own use; after which he went into the country, and spent some time with his relations: but finding it difficult to obtain from his old practices, he wrote to Caldclough, desiring he would meet him at St. Alban's, where it was probable a good booty might be obtained.

Caldclough obeyed the summons; and, on his arrival, found that the scheme was to rob the pack-horses \* belonging to the Coventry carrier. The man drinking at a house near St. Alban's, and permitting the horses to go forward, Caldclough and his accomplice, who had hid themselves behind a hedge, rushed out and stopped the horses; and having robbed the packages to the amount of fifty pounds, carried their booty to London, where they disposed of it.

Having dissipated in extravagance the money acquired by this robbery, they went into Hertfordshire to rob a gentleman whom they had learnt was possessed of a considerable sum of money. Getting into the yard near midnight, the owner of the house demanded what business they had there; to which they replied, "Only to go through the yard:" whereupon the gentleman fired a gun, which, though it was loaded with powder only, terrified them so that they decamped without committing the intended robbery.

Caldclough, and one of his accomplices named Robinson, being reduced to circumstances of distress,

---

\* The usual mode of conveying goods from one part of the kingdom to another was formerly by means of pack-horses: but this has given place to road waggon.



treſs, determined to make depredations on the road between London and Kenſington. While they were looking out for prey, two gentlemen, named Swaffard and Banks, were obſerved on the road behind them; but Mr. Swaffard being at ſome diſtance before his companion, Caldclough and Robinſon, who were provided with hangers, robbed him of ſome ſilver: but not till they had firſt wounded him in a manner ſhocking to relate. They cut his noſe almoſt from his face, and left him weltering in his blood.

Soon afterwards, Mr. Banks came up; whom they robbed of five guineas; and then hurrying towards Kenſington, went over the fields to Chelſea, where they took a boat and croſſed the Thames; and walking to Lambeth, took another boat, which carried them to Weſtmiſter.

In the mean time Mr. Banks, who had miſſed his friend, proceeded to Kenſington, where he made enquiry for him; but finding that he had not reached that place, he was apprehenſive that he might have been murdered; and going back with a gentleman in ſearch of him, they found him in the condition above deſcribed.

Mr. Swaffard was immediately removed to the houſe of a ſurgeon, where proper care being taken of him, he recovered his health, after a long ſeries of diligent attendance; but his wounds were of ſuch a kind as totally to diſfigure the features of his face, his noſe having been cut ſo as to hang over his mouth.

The villains were taken into cuſtody on the very day after the perpetration of this horrid deed, when Robinſon being admitted an evidence againſt his accomplice, he was brought to trial at the next ſeſſions, convicted, and received ſentence of death.

After

After conviction he seemed to entertain no hopes of a pardon; but, appropriating all his time in contrition for the vices of his past life, prepared for futurity with all the zeal of one who appeared to be a sincere penitent.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 2d of July, 1739, after having made the following speech to the surrounding multitude.

“ I humbly beg that all you young men whom  
 “ I leave behind me would take warning in time,  
 “ and avoid bad houses as well as bad company.  
 “ Remember my dying words, lest some of you  
 “ come to the same end, which I pray God you  
 “ never may. What I am now going to suffer is  
 “ the just punishment for my crimes; for al-  
 “ though I did not commit murder, yet I look  
 “ upon myself equally guilty, as the poor gen-  
 “ tleman must have died had he not met with as-  
 “ sistance.

“ Were I able to make satisfaction to those  
 “ whom I have wronged, I would do it; but  
 “ alas! I cannot, and therefore I pray that they  
 “ will forgive me. I hope my life will be at least  
 “ some satisfaction, as I have nothing besides to  
 “ give; and as I die in charity with all mankind,  
 “ may the Lord Jesus receive my soul!”

In the case of this malefactor, as in that of many others, we have a striking instance how extremely penitent a man may be, when his penitence can avail nothing to the injured party. We hope that those who read narratives of this kind, will reflect that the true way to be happy is never to be guilty of such crimes as will lay them under the necessity of such ineffectual repentance.

Vice is gradual in its progress, but certain in its ruinous consequences. The man who once embarks in illicit proceedings knows not to what dread-

dreadful lengths he may run: Smaller thefts naturally lead to larger; and murder is very often the unexpected consequence of robbery.

The sure way then to maintain a fair character, and to possess that "peace of mind which passeth all understanding," is to "abstain from all appearance of evil."

Caldclough, by connecting himself with bad company in his youth, was naturally led forward from the commission of one crime to the perpetration of another, till he met with that fate which the repetition and enormity of his offences had deserved. Even children may learn an useful lesson from this tale. The boy who keeps company with wicked boys will become more wicked: every one then should resolve to make the following resolution, in the words of the poet;

Away from fools I'll turn my eyes,

Nor with the scoffers go:

I would be walking with the wise,

That I may wiser grow.

---

Particulars respecting the singular Case of DAVID ROBERTS, who was Hanged at Tyburn for *High Treason*.

**T**HIS malefactor, who was a native of Chepstow in Monmouthshire, was apprenticed to a joiner; but quitting his master's service, he worked some time as a journeyman at the Devizes in Wiltshire, where he married a wife with a fortune of three hundred pounds.

His wife dying in childbed, he remained at the Devizes a considerable time, during which he dissipated all his wife's fortune, except about forty pounds

pounds, with which he came to London, and took lodgings with a widow, who kept a public-house. Roberts soon became so intimate with the widow, that she told him it was necessary he should marry her. He did not hesitate to embrace the proposal, imagining that the marriage would procure him a decent establishment in life; but being frequently arrested for debts contracted by his wife previous to the marriage, he determined to abandon her; with which view he sold the household furniture to a broker, and left his wife to provide for herself.

He now engaged in partnership with his brother, who was a carpenter in Southwark, and having saved a considerable sum of money during this connection, he embarked in business for himself, and obtained a large share of credit from the timber-merchants; but when his debts became due he took lodgings within the rules of the King's Bench, of which place he became a prisoner, in order to evade the payment of them.

Even while in this situation he undertook a piece of work by which he made three hundred pounds profit; and might have been a greater gainer, but that he quarrelled with his employer. At this period one Sarah Bristow, who had been transported for a felony, returned after the expiration of a year, and becoming acquainted with Roberts, lived with him as his wife for a considerable time.

He now took his new wife to Bristol, where he rented an inn, and furnished it by the help of those people who would trust him: but one of his London creditors getting notice of the place of his retreat, arrested him; and Roberts standing trial, cast him, on account of some informality in the taking out the writ.



Roberts, however, thought it imprudent to remain in his present station; and therefore, shipping his effects for London, he and Mrs. Bristow came to town, and lodged again within the rules of the King's Bench, of which Roberts became again a prisoner.

Notwithstanding his situation, he took an inn that was at that time to be lett at Coventry; but while he was giving directions for the putting up of a new sign, he was observed by a timber-merchant, named Smith, to whom he owed fifty-five pounds.

Mr. Smith rode forward to another inn, where he learnt that Roberts had taken the house where he had seen him: and, on his return to London, he sent a commission to an attorney to arrest him for the sum above-mentioned. Roberts found means to compromise this affair; but his other creditors learning whither he had retired, it soon became necessary for him to conceal himself.

Roberts thinking it would be unsafe to remain long in Coventry, commissioned Mrs. Bristow to purchase all such goods as she could get on credit, and send them to the inn, with a view to carry them off to some place where they were not known.

After some goods had been obtained in this manner, Roberts was necessitated to make a precipitate retreat, owing to the following circumstance. An attorney and bailiff having procured a search-warrant, employed some dragoons who were quartered in the town, to search Roberts's house, on pretence of finding stolen goods: but the dragoons were no sooner entered than they were followed by the bailiffs, on which Roberts dropped from the window of a room where he had

concealed himself, and escaped through the garden of his next neighbour.

As it now became necessary that he should retire from Coventry, he left Mrs. Bristow, and came to London, directing that she should send the goods she had obtained by a waggon, and direct them to him in a supposititious name.

Pursuant to her instructions she loaded a waggon with these ill-gotten effects; but some of the creditors having obtained intelligence of what was intended, attached the goods.

Hercupon Mrs. Bristow wrote word to Roberts, giving a short account of what had happened; on which he sent one Carter to obtain a full information respecting the affair: but Carter staying much longer than he was expected to do, Roberts set out for Coventry, notwithstanding the risk to which he knew he exposed himself by appearing in that place.

On his arrival he found the house stripped of every thing but a small quantity of beer, with some benches and chairs; and observed that Mrs. Bristow and Carter were in a high degree of intimacy. However, he did not stay long to examine into the state of affairs; for the woman told him it would be prudent for him to conceal himself in some retired place till she came to him.

Pursuant to this advice he waited at the extremity of the town more than three hours, when the other parties came to him, and advised him to retire to London with all possible expedition; but did not give him money to defray his expences. He was greatly incensed at this behaviour; but did not express his resentment, as he was fearful of being arrested if he should provoke the other parties.

He

He was soon followed to London by Mrs. Briftow and Carter; but as they brought no more money with them than about sixteen pounds, he was exceedingly mortified: however, as he was still in possession of the lease of the house, he knew he could not be legally deprived of it, while he duly paid the land-tax and ground-rent.

Roberts now moved the court of King's-Bench for a rule against his creditors, to shew cause why they had attached his goods; and the court recommending to each party to settle the matter by arbitration, it was awarded that Roberts should receive one hundred and thirty pounds, and give his creditors a bill of sale of his lease and effects: but Roberts not having paid for the fixtures, the owner of them instituted a suit for recovery; and on the day his other creditors took possession of the house, an execution was returned from the court of Common-Pleas.

Another suit arose from this circumstance: "but a writ of enquiry being directed to the sheriff of Coventry, a verdict was found for the creditors under the award, because that order had been made prior to the execution."

While these matters were depending, Roberts being distressed for cash, borrowed five pounds, for the payment of which Carter was the security; but the debt not being paid when due, Carter was arrested for the money, while Roberts secreted himself in a lodging at Hoxton, where he received the one hundred and thirty pounds decreed him by the award above-mentioned.

Carter soon finding Roberts's place of retreat, a quarrel arose between them: but at length the former asked Roberts to lend him twenty pounds, saying he could acquire a fortune by the possession of such a sum; and that he would repay the money

ney at twenty shillings a month, and give a good premium for the use of it.

Roberts asking how this money was to be employed to such advantage, the other said it was to purchase a liquid which would dissolve gold; whereupon the former said he would not lend him the money; in revenge for which Carter caused him to be arrested for the five pounds above-mentioned.

Roberts took refuge within the rules of the King's-Bench, while Carter, who had found means to raise money for his purposes, took to the practice of diminishing the coin, in which he was so successful that he soon abounded in cash; on which Roberts became very anxious to know the secret, which the other refused to discover, saying he had been ill-treated in their former transactions.

Carter's method of diminishing the coin was by a chemical preparation; and Roberts imagined he had learnt how to do it, for which purpose he purchased a crucible; but his experiment failed in the first attempt. Hereupon he again sought for Carter, whom he found in company with some other diminishers of the coin, and offered him money to give him the necessary instructions.

Carter took the money, and desired Roberts to wait till he fetched some tools; but in fact he went for two sheriff's officers to arrest him. The transaction had passed in a public-house, and Roberts seeing the bailiffs crossing the street, made his escape by a back window; but, in his hurry, went off with Carter's hat instead of his own.

Having thus escaped from immediate danger, he became apprehensive that Carter might be base enough to indict him for felony; on which he returned the hat, with a letter, earnestly entreating



a reconciliation: whereupon Carter went to him and told him that, for twenty guineas, he would teach him his art: but Roberts offering a much inferior price, no agreement took place.

Roberts now again took refuge within the Rules of the King's-Bench; and having failed obtaining the desired secret, determined on a practice equally dishonest and dangerous, which was that of filing of gold.

Mrs. Bristow still cohabited with him; and when he had filed off as much dust as was worth ten pounds, he put it into a tobacco-box, under his bed, which she stole, and sold the contents: but after this he obtained a considerable sum of money, by employing a person at half a crown a day, to sell the filings.

After some time, not agreeing with the person whom he had thus employed, he determined to act for himself, and having sold a quantity of dust to a refiner, he went to a public house near Hicks's-Hall, kept by a Mr. Rogers, whom he asked to give him a bank note for some gold. Rogers, on feeling the guineas, found that some of the dust stuck to his fingers; on which he said, "What have we got here? The fellow who filed these guineas ought to be hanged, for doing his business in so clumsy a manner." Without saying more, he stepped out, and procured a constable, who took Roberts into custody: but at length, after detaining him six hours, discharged him on his own authority.

Roberts was no sooner at liberty than he prosecuted the publican and constable in the court of King's-Bench for false imprisonment: but he failed in this suit; and an evidence whom he had subpoena'd in his behalf was committed on a charge of perjury, while the publican was bound

to prosecute Roberts, who taking out a writ of error, to prolong time, lodged privately at the Three Hats, a public-house at Islington.

While he was in this retreat, and forming a design to go to Lisbon, Mrs. Bristow brought him a news-paper, in which his person was described; whereupon they went together to Chatham, where they saw another advertisement, offering a reward for apprehending them both. On this Roberts offered the captain of a ship five guineas to carry them to Dunkirk; but this was refused, on account of the boisterousness of the weather.

Thus disappointed, they repaired to Ramsgate, where they met Mrs. Bristow's brother, who was likewise included in the advertisement, and they all went on board a vessel bound for Calais: but quarrelling among themselves, the captain gave orders that they should be landed at Dover. Provoked by this, Roberts threw the captain into the sea, and if the boat had not been sent to take him up, he must infallibly have been drowned.

The captain was no sooner on board than Roberts took the helm, and steered the vessel to her port: but on their landing, Mrs. Bristow's brother making the Custom-house officers acquainted with Roberts's character, his boxes were searched, and the implements for filing money found; but he escaped to Dunkirk while they were making the search.

At Dunkirk he made an acquaintance with Henry Justice, who having stolen some books at Cambridge, had been transported for the offence. To this man he told the secrets of his trade; but he advised him to decamp, as he would infallibly be pursued from Calais.

Hereupon Roberts went to Ostend, and sending for Mrs. Bristow to that place, they embarked for England, and took lodgings in Fountain-Court in the Strand, which they quitted after a residence of six weeks.

Roberts could not detach himself from the idea of procuring a subsistence by filing money, and in pursuit of this illicit practice, he took a house at Bath, where he used to work at his occupation during the night.

Going to a chymist's shop one morning to purchase a liquid, he saw a gentleman who knew him; on which he went home immediately, and told Mrs. Bristow that he was apprehensive of being taken into custody. His presages were but too just; for some officers came to his house almost immediately, and conveyed him before a justice of peace, who committed him to prison, and sent notice to London of his being in custody.

During his confinement at Bath, he was supplied with instruments for filing off his irons: but discovery of this affair being made, he was kept in the strictest confinement till he was transmitted to London.

Being brought to his trial at the Old-Bailey, he was convicted on the fullest evidence, and received sentence of death; and after his conviction, till the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he scarcely mentioned any circumstances respecting his conduct; but afterwards, his behaviour was much more explicit.

On the night before his execution he acknowledged, to the keeper of Newgate, that he had murdered his first wife, during her lying-in.

The second wife went to visit him in prison; but he declined seeing her, alledging that her company would only disturb him in his preparations

rations for that awful state on which he was about to enter. As to the rest of his conduct, it was highly becoming his melancholy situation.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 3d of April, 1739, after behaving with great devotion at the place of execution.

This offender seems to have been devoid of all the principles of moral honesty. He made no scruple of marrying his second wife from mere motives of interest; and he was equally free to run in debt, without a single view to payment. These circumstances alone would sufficiently mark his character, exclusive of his other, and more enormous crimes.

The man who can deliberately set down to file a guinea must possess a heart of uncommon baseness; for the loss arising from the diminution of the coin will almost always fall on poor people who are unable to bear it.

The legislature has acted wisely in making this a capital offence; and it is pity that any one who is guilty of it should ever escape the hands of justice.

We are sorry to say that the many examples which are made of coiners, and diminishers of money, fail to have their proper effect on the surviving practisers of those fatal arts. No instance can be produced of one man who has followed these professions that was ever happy; and indeed it is impossible that they should be so.

The man who is for ever in terror of the officers of justice, must live a life of unremitting torment; and in the case of these offenders in particular, they labour harder to be miserable, than honest mechanics do to be happy. Those who have had occasion to attend the trials of persons charged with offences of this kind, know that the  
the



the labour of their hands, added to the anxiety of their minds, must render them some of the most wretched of mortals.

These remarks we hope will have their proper influence on the minds of our readers: but if they should fail, we trust that the consideration of the Divine vengeance, which infallibly pursues the workers of iniquity, will have its due weight: for the man who makes himself despised by his fellow-creatures, by the very means that render him an object of the anger of God, must endure a state of wretchedness which it is not in the power of language to describe.

Those who are induced to entertain a single thought of committing the crimes above-mentioned, should be earnest in offering up their prayers in these solemn words, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil!"



Account of THOMAS BARKWITH, who was executed at *Tyburn* for a *Highway Robbery*.

THE unfortunate youth whose memoirs we are now about to record was the descendant of a respectable family in the Isle of Ely. At a very early period of life he was observed to possess a strength of understanding greatly beyond what could be expected at his years; and this determined his father to add to such extraordinary gifts of nature the advantages of a liberal education: nor was the necessary attention omitted to impress upon his mind a just idea of the

principles of religion and the absolute necessity of practical virtue.

Before the young gentleman had arrived at his fourteenth year, he obtained to a great proficiency in the Greek, Latin, French and Italian languages; and he afforded an indisputable proof of the depth of his penetration and the brilliancy of his fancy, in the production of a variety of poetical and prose essays. His figure was pleasing, and improved by a graceful deportment; his manner of address was insinuating, and he excelled in the arts of conversation. It will, then, naturally be imagined that these qualifications, added to his extensive knowledge in the several branches of polite literature, could not fail to render him an object of esteem and admiration.

Soon after he had passed his fourteenth year, he received an invitation to visit an aunt residing in the metropolis. He had not been many days at this lady's house before he became equally conspicuous, throughout the whole circle of her acquaintance, on the score of his mental powers and personal qualifications: and he was dissuaded by his friends from returning into the country, it being their unanimous opinion, that London was, of all others, the place where opportunities would be most likely to occur which the youth might improve to the advancement of his fortune.

A short time after his arrival in the metropolis, he procured a recommendation to a master in chancery of high reputation and extensive practice; and this gentleman appointed him to the superintendence of that department of his business which related to money matters. In this office he acquitted himself entirely to the satisfaction

faction of his employer, who considered him as a youth in whom he might safely repose an unlimited confidence. He possessed the particular esteem of all those who had the happiness of his acquaintance; and it was their common opinion that his fine talents, and great capacity for business could not fail to introduce him to some considerable station in life.

The gentleman in whose service Barkwith had engaged being under the necessity of going into Wales, on some business respecting an estate there, he commissioned Barkwith to receive the rents of a number of houses in London.

In the neighbourhood of the solicitor lived a young lady, of whom Barkwith had for some time been passionately enamoured: and immediately upon the departure of the former for Wales, he determined to avail himself of the first opportunity of making a declaration of honourable love.

Though the young lady did not mean to unite herself in marriage with Mr. Barkwith, yet she encouraged his addresses; and to this disengenuous conduct is to be attributed the fatal reverse of his fortune, from the most flattering prospect of acquiring a respectable situation in the world, to the dreadful event of suffering an ignominious death at Tyburn.

So entirely was his attention engrossed by the object of his love, that his master's most important business was wholly neglected: and he appeared to have no object in view but that of ingratiating himself into the esteem of his mistress; to gratify whose extravagance and vanity he engaged in expences greatly disproportioned to his income, by making her valuable presents, and accompanying her to the theatres, balls, assemblies,



and other places of public entertainment. In short, he was continually proposing parties of pleasure; and she had too little discretion to reject such invitations as flattered the levity of her disposition, and yielded satisfaction to her immoderate fondness for scenes of gaiety.

Upon the return of the solicitor, he found the affairs which he had entrusted to Barkwith in a very embarrassed situation; and upon searching into the cause of this unexpected and alarming circumstance, it was discovered that the infatuated youth had embezzled a considerable sum. The gentleman having made a particular enquiry into the conduct of Barkwith, received such information as left but little hopes of his reformation; and therefore he, though reluctantly, yielded to the dictates of prudence, and resolved to employ him no longer: but, after having dismissed him from his service, he omitted no opportunity of shewing him instances of kindness and respect; and generously exerted his endeavours to render him offices of friendship, and promote his interest on every occasion that offered.

Barkwith now hired chambers, in order to transact law business on his own account; but as he had not been admitted an attorney, he was under the necessity of acting under the sanction of another person's name; whence it may be concluded that his practice was not very extensive. He might, however, by a proper attention to his business, and a moderate œconomy in his expences, have retrieved his affairs in a short time: but unhappily his intercourse with the young lady was still continued, and he thought no sacrifice too great for convincing her of the ardour of his affection.



He resided at his chambers about six months. Being arrested for a considerable sum, he put in bail to the action; and though he paid the money before the writ became returnable, his credit received a terrible shock from the news of his late misfortune being circulated among his creditors, who had not hitherto entertained the least suspicion of his being under pecuniary difficulties: but they now became exceedingly importunate for him immediately to discharge their several demands.

Thus distressed, he made application to the persons whom he considered as his most valuable friends: but his hopes were disappointed, the whole he obtained amounting to a mere trifle: and what was particularly mortifying to him was, the repulse he met with from several on whom he had conferred considerable obligations.

His necessities were so pressing as to drive him almost to desperation: but it must be observed that his greatest distress was occasioned by the reflection that he was no longer in a capacity to indulge his mistress in that perpetual succession of pleasurable amusements to which she had been so long familiarized.

The idea that poverty would render him contemptible in the opinion of his acquaintance, and that he should be no longer able to gratify the inclinations of the object on whom his warmest inclinations were fixed, was too mortifying for the pride of Barkwith to endure; and therefore he determined upon a desperate expedient, by which he vainly imagined that he should be enabled to provide for some pressing exigencies, flattering himself that before his expected temporary supply would be exhausted, a favourable  
turn

turn would take place in his affairs, and remove every incitement to a repetition of guilt.

Barkwith took horse in the morning of the 13th of November, pretending that he was going to Denham in Buckinghamshire, in order to transact some important business in relation to an estate which was to devolve to a young lady, then in her minority. It is not known whether he went to Denham; but about four o'clock in the afternoon he stopped a coach upon Hounslow-heath, and robbed a gentleman who was in the vehicle of a sum in silver not amounting to twenty shillings.

In a short time a horseman came up, who was informed by the coachman that his master had been robbed by Barkwith, who was yet in sight. The horseman immediately rode to an adjacent farm-house, where he procured pistols and persuaded a person to accompany him in search of the highwayman, whom, in about a quarter of an hour, they overtook, being separated from him only by a hedge. The gentleman now, pointing a pistol at Barkwith, said, if he did not surrender, he would instantly shoot him; upon which the robber urged his horse to the creature's utmost speed, and continued to gain so much ground that he would have escaped had he not alighted to recover his hat, which had blown off: he regained the saddle, but soon observed that the delay occasioned by dismounting had enabled his pursuers nearly to overtake him, he again quitted his horse, hoping to elude the pursuit by crossing the fields.

In order to facilitate his escape he disencumbered himself of his great-coat, but this circumstance raising the suspicion of some labouring  
people

people near the spot; they advanced to secure him, when he snapped two pistols at them; neither of the pistols was loaded, but he thought the sight of fire-arms might perhaps deter the country-men from continuing their pursuit. His spirits being violently agitated, his strength nearly exhausted, and there appearing but little probability of effecting an escape, he, at length, surrendered, saying to the people who surrounded him, that he was a gentleman heavily oppressed with misfortunes, and supplicating in the most pathetic terms that they would favour his escape: but his entreaties had no effect.

He was properly secured during that night, and the next morning conducted before a magistrate for examination. He was ordered to London, where he was re examined, and then committed to Newgate.

He was tried at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, and condemned to suffer death. While he remained in Newgate he conducted himself in a manner perfectly consistent with his unhappy circumstances: his unassuming and quiet behaviour secured him from the insults of his fellow-prisoners; and upon such of them as were not absolutely callous to the stings of conscience, the sincerity of his repentance had a favourable effect.

He was conveyed to Tyburn on the 21st of December, 1739. He prayed to Almighty God with great fervency; and exhorted young people carefully to avoid engaging in expences disproportioned to their incomes; saying that the perpetrator of villainy, however successful, was continually in a state of insupportable misery, through the silent upbraidings of an internal monitor; and that though justice was, for a time, eluded,



eluded, imagination never failed to anticipate all the horrors attendant on public ignominy and a violent death. After this he was launched into eternity.

A false pride seems to have been the distinguishing characteristic of the unhappy youth who is the subject of the above narrative. He could not condescend to abridge his usual expences, lest his mistress should suspect his liberality. Had he candidly explained to her the state of his affairs, it is more than probable that she would have declined the expectation of being indulged in expensive amusements: but had she persisted in her unreasonable desires, he would have been relieved from the infatuation of an ill-placed affection; for he was a man of too much discernment to remain the dupe of a woman avowedly acting from mercenary principles, and consequently destitute of those sentiments of tenderness and delicacy which are inseparable from real love, a passion that cannot exist independent of an anxious solicitude for the happiness of its object.

It is to be lamented that when we have once entered the path of vice, something in our nature impells us to go forward with a force that, to be successfully opposed, requires an uncommon effort of resolution. Doctor Goldsmith says, "That single effort by which we stop short in the downhill path to perdition, is itself a greater exertion of virtue, than a hundred acts of justice."

Let not the most flattering prospect of present convenience tempt us to hazard the slightest imputation on our integrity; for, by familiarity, the hideous aspect of vice will cease to be disgusting; who can listen to her dictates, and with safety say, "So far will I go, and no farther?"



We shall here take the liberty of apprizing the younger part of our female readers of the terrible consequences that may ensue from encouraging extravagance in youth of the other sex. During the time of courtship, the lady expects to be occasionally complimented with presents, and to partake of the fashionable amusements. If her lover is in a dependent situation, it is necessary that she should exercise the virtue of self-denial by rejecting his invitations, if there appears the least ground for an apprehension that a compliance will incur an expence too considerable for his income to afford. Almost every consideration must of necessity yield to the pleasing task of contributing to the satisfaction of an admired object. Pride will seldom permit us to acknowledge poverty: and rather than labour under the suspicion of avarice, the severity of virtue may relax, and a generous mind may, by the violence of passion, be precipitated beyond the bounds of discretion, and involved in irretrievable destruction.



Account of the Life and Trial of EDWARD JOINES, who was Hanged at Tyburn, for the *Murder* of his *Wife*.

THE parents of Edward Joines were respectable house-keepers in Ratcliff-high-way, who, being desirous that the boy should be qualified for business, placed him under the direction of the master of a day-school in Goodman's Fields, where he continued a regular attendance about five years, but without gaining any considerable improvement.

Soon after he had completed his fourteenth year he was removed from the school, and his father informed him that he was endeavouring to find some reputable tradesman who would take him as an apprentice: but the youth expressed an aversion to any occupation but that of a gardener. Finding that he had conceived a strong prepossession in favour of this business, they bound him to a gardener at Stepney, whom he served in an industrious and regular manner for the space of seven years; and he, for some time afterwards, continued with the same master in the capacity of a journeyman, his parents being so reduced through misfortunes that they could not supply him with money to carry on business on his own account.

A short time after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he married a milk-woman, by whom he had seven children in the course of twenty years, during which time he lived in an amicable manner with his wife, earning a tolerable subsistence by honest industry.

His children all died in their infancy: and upon the decease of his wife he procured employment at Bromley; and that he might lose but little time in going to, and returning from his work, he hired a lodging at the lower end of Poplar, in a house kept by a widow, with whom he, in a few days, contracted a criminal familiarity. They had lived together about a twelvemonth, jointly defraying the household expences, when the more frequently than usual gave way to the natural violence of her temper, threatening that he should not continue in the house unless he would marry her; which he consented to do, and adjourning to the Fleet, the ceremony was there performed.

After

After their marriage their disagreements became more frequent and violent; and upon the wife's daughter leaving her service, and coming to reside with them, she united with her mother in pursuing every measure that could tend to render the life of Joines insupportably miserable. Upon his return from work one evening, a disagreement, as usual, took place, and being aggravated by her abusive language, he pushed her from him, and, falling against the grate, her arm was much scorched. In consequence of this she swore the peace against him: but when they appeared before the magistrate who had granted the warrant for the apprehension of Joines, they were advised to compromise their disagreement, to which they mutually agreed.

By an accidental fall Mrs. Joines broke her arm, about a month after the above affair; but timely application being made to a surgeon, she, in a short time; had every reason to expect a perfect and speedy recovery.

Joines being at a public-house on a Sunday afternoon, the landlord observed his daughter-in-law carrying a pot of porter from another ale-house, and mentioned the circumstance to him, adding that the girl had been served with a like quantity at his house but a short time before. Being intoxicated, Joines took fire at what the publican had imprudently said, and immediately went towards the house, which was on the opposite side of the street, with an intention of preventing his wife from drinking the liquor. He struck the pot out of her hand, and then seizing the arm that had been broke, twisted it till the bone again separated.

The fracture was again reduced, but such unfavourable symptoms appeared that an amputation



tion was judged necessary for preserving the life of the patient. In a short time afterwards, however, she was supposed to be in a fair way of recovery; and calling one day at the gardens where her husband was employed, she told his fellow-labourers that she had great hopes of her arm being speedily cured, adding that she was then able to move her fingers with but very little difficulty.

The hopes of this unfortunate woman were falsely grounded; for on the following day she was so ill that her life was judged to be very precarious. She sent for Joines from his work: and upon his coming to her bed-side, he asked, if she had any accusation to alledge against him; upon which, shaking her head, she said, she would forgive him, and hoped the world would do so too. She expired the next night, and in the morning he gave some directions respecting the funeral, and then went to work in the gardens as usual, not entertaining the least suspicion that he should be accused as the cause of his wife's death: but upon his return in the evening he was apprehended on suspicion of murder.

An inquest being summoned to enquire whether the woman was murdered, or died according to the course of nature, it appeared in evidence, that her death was occasioned by the second fracture of her arm: the jury therefore brought in a verdict of wilful murder against Joines, who was, in consequence, committed to Newgate in order for trial.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, Joines was arraigned on an indictment for the wilful murder of his wife. In the course of the trial it appeared that the prisoner had frequently forced the deceased into the street, at late hours of the night, without regard to her being without  
cloaths,



cloaths, or the severity of the weather. The surgeon who attended her deposed, that a gangrene appeared on her arm in consequence of its being broke the second time, which was indisputably the cause of her death.

Near three months had elapsed from the time of her arm being first broke to that of her decease: but not more than ten days passed from the second fracture to the consequent mortification. The law expresses that, if a person violently wounded dies within twelve calendar months, the offender causing such wound or wounds shall be deemed guilty of a capital felony. As it was evident that his wife died in consequence of his cruelty, within the time limited by law, Joines was pronounced to be guilty of murder, and sentenced to suffer death.

During the confinement of Joines in Newgate he did not appear to entertain a proper sense of his guilt. As his wife did not die immediately after the fracture of her arm, it was with difficulty he could be persuaded that the jury had done him justice in finding him guilty of murder. He had but a very imperfect notion of the principles of religion, but the ordinary of the prison took great pains to inspire him with a just sense of his duty towards his Creator. Though he was distressed for all the necessaries of life during the greatest part of his confinement, his daughter-in-law, who had taken possession of his house and effects, neglected either to visit him, or afford him any kind of assistance; and he was violently enraged against the young woman on account of this behaviour.

Joines was hanged at Tyburn, on the 21st of December, 1739.

The fate of this malefactor and his wife affords a striking lesson to teach the necessity of avoiding family dissensions, from which the most terrible effects are frequently known to arise. Mrs. Joines was a woman of violent passions, which, instead of endeavouring to curb, she indulged to the utmost extravagance, though she could not be ignorant that during her paroxysms of rage her life was in momentary danger from her husband, whose natural ferocity of disposition she increased by perpetual ill treatment.

It will scarcely be denied that disagreements in the marriage state generally arise from trifling causes. If one of the parties, then, could command sufficient forbearance to yield to the implacability of the other, before the dispute ran to any height, the amiable condescension would inspire a virtuous emulation to avoid domestic animosities.



Circumstantial Account of the extraordinary Exploits of MARY YOUNG, alias *Jenny Diver*, who was executed for *Privately Stealing*.

THE north of Ireland gave birth to Mary Young, whose parents were in indigent circumstances; and they dying while she was in a state of infancy, she had no recollection of them.

At about ten years of age she was taken into the family of an ancient gentlewoman who had known her father and mother, and who caused her to be instructed in reading, writing and needlework; and in the latter she attained to a proficiency unusual to girls of her age.

Soon

Soon after she had arrived to her fifteenth year, a young man, servant to a gentleman who lived in the same neighbourhood, made pretensions of love to her: but the old lady being apprized of his views, declared that she would not consent to their marriage, and positively forbid him to repeat his visits at her house.

Notwithstanding the great care and tenderness with which she was treated, Mary formed the resolution of deserting her generous benefactor, and of directing her course towards the metropolis of England; and the only obstacle to this design was the want of money for her support till she could follow some honest means of earning a subsistence.

She had no very strong prepossession in favour of the young man who had made a declaration of love to her; but she, determining to make his passion subservient to the purpose she had conceived, promised to marry him, on condition of his taking her to London. He joyfully embraced this proposal, and immediately engaged for a passage in a vessel bound for Liverpool.

A short time before the vessel was to sail, the young man robbed his master of a gold watch and eighty guineas, and then joined the companion of his flight, who was already on board the ship, vainly imagining that his infamously acquired booty would contribute to the happiness he should enjoy with his expected bride. The ship arrived at the destined port in two days; and Mary being indisposed in consequence of her voyage, her companion hired a lodging in the least frequented part of the town, where they lived a short time under the characters of man and wife, but avoiding all intercourse with their neighbours; the man being apprehensive that measures would



would be pursued for rendering him amenable to justice.

Mary being restored to health, they agreed for a passage in a waggen that was to set out for London in a few days. On the day preceding that fixed for their departure they accidentally called at a public-house, and the man being observed by a messenger dispatched in pursuit of him from Ireland, he was immediately taken into custody. Mary, who a few hours before his apprehension, had received ten guineas from him, voluntarily accompanied him to the mayor's house, where he acknowledged himself guilty of the crime alleged against him, but without giving the least intimation that she was an accessary in his guilt. He being committed to prison, Mary sent him all his cloaths, and part of the money she had received from him, and the next day took her place in the waggon for London. In a short time her companion was sent to Ireland, where he was tried and condemned to suffer death: but his sentence was changed to that of transportation.

Soon after her arrival in London, Mary contracted an acquaintance with one of her countrywomen, named Anne Murphy, by whom she was invited to partake of a lodging in Long-Acre. Here she endeavoured to obtain a livelihood by her needle, but not being able to procure sufficient employment, in a little time her situation became truly deplorable.

Murphy intimated to her that she could introduce her to a mode of life that would prove exceedingly lucrative; adding that the most profound secrecy was required. The other expressed an anxious desire of learning the means of extricating herself from the difficulties under which she



she laboured, and made a solemn declaration that she would never divulge what Murphy should communicate. In the evening Murphy introduced her to a number of men and women assembled in a kind of club, near St. Giles's. These people gained their living by cutting off women's pockets, and stealing watches, &c. from men in the avenues of the theatres, and at other places of public resort; and on the recommendation of Murphy they admitted Mary a member of the society.

After Mary's admission, they dispersed, in order to pursue their illegal occupation; and the booty obtained that night consisted of eighty pounds in cash and a valuable gold watch. As Mary was not yet acquainted with the art of cheating, she was not admitted to an equal share of the night's produce, but it was agreed that she should have ten guineas. She now regularly applied two hours every day in qualifying herself for an expert thief, by attending to the instructions of experienced practitioners; and in a short time she was distinguished as the most ingenious and successful adventurer of the whole gang.

A young fellow of genteel appearance, who was a member of the club, was singled out by Mary as the partner of her bed; and they cohabited for a considerable time as husband and wife.

In a few months our heroine became so expert in her profession as to acquire great consequence among her associates, who, as we conceive, distinguished her by the appellation of Jenny Diver, on account of her remarkable dexterity; and by that name we shall call her in the succeeding pages of this narrative.

Jenny, accompanied by one of her female accomplices, joined the crowd at the entrance of a place of worship in the Old Jewry, where a popular divine was to preach, and observing a young gentleman with a diamond ring on his finger, she held out her hand, which he kindly received in order to assist her; and at this juncture she contrived to get possession of the ring, without the knowledge of the owner; after which she slipped behind her companion, and heard the gentleman say that, as there was no probability of gaining admittance he would return. Upon his leaving the meeting he missed his ring, and mentioned his loss to the persons who were near him, adding that he suspected it to be stolen by a woman whom he had endeavoured to assist in the crowd: but as the thief was unknown, she escaped.

The above robbery was considered as such an extraordinary proof of Jenny's superior address that her associates determined to allow her an equal share of all their booties, even though she was not present when they were obtained.

In a short time after the above exploit she procured a pair of false hands and arms to be made; and, concealing her real ones under her cloaths, and putting something beneath her stays, to make herself appear as if in a state of pregnancy, she repaired on a Sunday evening to the place of worship above-mentioned in a sedan chair, one of the gang going before to procure a seat among the genteeler part of the congregation, and another attending in the character of a footman.

Jenny being seated between two elderly ladies, each of whom had a gold watch by her side, she conducted herself with great seeming devotion; but when the service was nearly concluded, she seized the opportunity, while the ladies were stand-

standing up, of stealing their watches, which she delivered to an accomplice in an adjoining pew. The devotions being ended, the congregation were preparing to depart, when the ladies discovered their loss, and a violent clamour ensued: one of the injured parties exclaimed that her watch must have been taken either by the “devil or the pregnant woman;” on which the other said, she “could vindicate the pregnant lady, whose hands, she was sure, had not been removed from her lap during the whole time of her being in the pew.”

Flushed with the success of the above adventure, our heroine determined to pursue her good fortune; and as another sermon was to be preached the same evening, she adjourned to an adjacent public-house, where without either pain or difficulty, she soon reduced the protuberance of her waist, and having entirely changed her dress, she returned to the meeting, where she had not remained long before she picked a gentleman’s pocket of a gold watch, with which she escaped unsuspected.

Her accomplices also were industrious and successful; for on a division of the booty obtained this evening, they each received thirty guineas. Jenny had now obtained an ascendancy over the whole gang, who, conscious of her superior skill in the arts of thieving, came to a resolution of yielding an exact obedience to her directions.

Jenny again assumed the appearance of a pregnant woman, and attended by an accomplice, as a footman, went towards St. James’s Park on a day when the king was going to the House of Lords, and there being a great number of persons between the Park and Spring Gardens, she purposely slipped down, and was instantly sur-

rounded by many of both sexes, who were emulous to afford her assistance: but, affecting to be in violent pain, she intimated to them that she was desirous of remaining on the ground till she should be somewhat recovered. As she expected, the crowd encreased, and her pretended footman and a female accomplice were so industrious as to obtain two diamond girdle-buckles, a gold watch, a gold snuff-box, and two purses, containing together upwards of forty guineas.

The girdle-buckles, watch, and snuff-box were the following day advertised, and a considerable reward was offered, and a promise given that no questions should be asked the party who should restore the property. Anne Murphy offered to carry the things to the place mentioned in the advertisement, saying the reward offered exceeded what they would produce by sale: but to this Jenny objected, observing that she might be traced, and the association utterly ruined. She called a meeting of the whole gang, and informed them that she was of opinion that it would be more prudent to sell the things even at one half of their real value than to return them to the owners for the sake of the reward; as, if they pursued the latter measure, they should subject themselves to great hazard of being apprehended. Her associates coincided entirely in Jenny's sentiments; and the property was taken to Duke's Place, and there sold to a Jew.

Two of the gang being confined to their lodgings by illness, Jenny and the man with whom she cohabited, generally went in company in search of adventures. They went together to Burr-Street, Wapping, and observing a genteel house, the man, who acted as Jenny's footman, knocked at the door, and saying that his mistress was



was on a sudden taken extremely ill, begged she might be admitted: this was readily complied with, and while the mistress of the house and her maid-servant were gone up stairs for such things as they imagined would afford relief to the supposed sick woman, she opened a drawer, and stole sixty guineas; and after this, while the mistress was holding a smelling-bottle to her nose, she picked her pocket of a purse, which, however, did not contain money to any considerable amount. In the mean time the pretended footman, who had been ordered into the kitchen, stole six silver table spoons, a pepper-box, and a saltcellar. Jenny pretending to be somewhat recovered, expressed the most grateful acknowledgments to the lady, and, saying she was the wife of a capital merchant in Thames-Street, invited her in the most pressing terms to dinner on an appointed day, and then went away in a hackney-coach, which by her order had been called to the door by her pretended servant.

She practised a variety of felonies of a similar nature in different parts of the metropolis and its adjacencies: but the particulars of the above transaction being inserted in the news-papers, people were so effectually cautioned that our adventurer was under the necessity of employing her invention upon the discovery of other methods of committing depredations on the public.

The parties whose illness we have mentioned being recovered, it was resolved that the whole gang should go to Bristol, in search of adventures during the fair which is held in that city every summer; but being unacquainted with the place, they deemed it good policy to admit into their society a man who had long subsisted there by villainous practices.

Being

Being arrived at the place of destination, Jenny and Anne Murphy assumed the characters of merchants wives, the new member and another of the gang appeared as country traders, and our heroine's favourite retained his former character of footman. They took lodgings at different inns, and agreed that if any of them should be apprehended the others should endeavour to procure their release by appearing to their characters, and representing them as people of reputation in London. They had arrived to such a proficiency in their illegal occupation that they were almost certain of accomplishing every scheme they suggested; and when it was inconvenient to make use of words, they were able to convey their meaning to each other by winks, nods, and other intimations.

Being one day in the fair, they observed a west-country clothier giving a sum of money to his servant, and heard him direct the man to deposit it in a bureau. They followed the servant, and one of them fell down before him, expecting that he would also fall, and that, as there was a great crowd, the money might be easily secured. Though the man fell into the channel, they were not able to obtain their expected booty, and therefore they had recourse to the following stratagem: one of the gang asked whether his master had not lately ordered him to carry home a sum of money; to which the other replied in the affirmative. The sharper then told him he must return to his master, who had purchased some goods, and waited to pay for them.

The countryman followed him to Jenny's lodging, and being introduced to her, she desired him to be seated, saying his master was gone on some business in the neighbourhood, but had left orders for him to wait till his return. She urged him  
to

to drink a glass of wine, but the poor fellow repeatedly declined her offers with awkward simplicity; the pretended footman having taught him to believe her a woman of great wealth and consequence. However, her encouraging solicitations conquered his bashfulness, and he drank till he became intoxicated. Being conducted into another apartment he was soon fast locked in the arms of sleep, and while in that situation he was robbed of the money he had received from his master, which proved to be a hundred pounds. They were no sooner in possession of the cash than they discharged the demand of the inn-keeper, and set out in the first stage for London.

Soon after their return to town, Jenny and her associates went to London-Bridge in the dusk of the evening, and observing a lady standing at a door to avoid the carriages, a number of which were passing, one of the men went up to her, and, under pretence of giving her assistance, seized both her hands, which he held till his accomplices had rifled her pockets of a gold snuff-box, a silver case, containing a set of instruments, and thirty guineas in cash.

On the following day as Jenny and an accomplice, in the character of a footman, were walking through 'Change Alley she picked a gentleman's pocket of a Bank note for two hundred pounds, for which she received one hundred and thirty pounds from a Jew, with whom the gang had very extensive connections.

Our heroine now hired a real footman, and her favourite, who had long acted in that character, assumed the appearance of a gentleman. She hired lodgings in the neighbourhood of Covent-Garden, that she might more conveniently attend the theatres. She proposed to her associates to

reserve a tenth part of the general produce for the support of such of the gang as might through illness be rendered incapable of following their iniquitous occupations : and to this they readily assented.

Jenny dressed herself in an elegant manner and went to the theatre one evening when the king was to be present ; and during the performance she attracted the particular attention of a young gentleman of fortune from Yorkshire, who declared, in the most passionate terms, that she had made an absolute conquest of his heart, and earnestly solicited the favour of attending her home. She at first declined a compliance, saying she was newly married, and that the appearance of a stranger might alarm her husband. At length she yielded to his entreaty, and they went together in a hackney-coach, which set the young gentleman down in the neighbourhood where Jenny lodged, after he had obtained an appointment to visit her in a few days, when she said her husband would be out of town.

Upon Jenny's joining her companions she informed them that while she remained at the playhouse she was only able to steal a gold snuff-box ; and they appeared to be much dissatisfied on account of her ill success : but their good humour returned upon learning the circumstances of the adventure with the young gentleman, which they had no doubt would prove exceedingly profitable.

The day of appointment being arrived, two of the gang appeared equipped in elegant liveries, and Anne Murphy acted as waiting-maid. The gentleman came in the evening, having a gold-headed cane in his hand, a sword with a gold hilt by his side, and wearing a gold watch in his pocket, and a diamond ring on his finger.



Being introduced to her bed-chamber, she contrived to steal her lover's ring; and he had not been many minutes undressed before Anne Murphy rapped at the door, which being opened, she said, with an appearance of the utmost consternation, that her master was returned from the country. Jenny affecting to be under a violent agitation of spirits, desired the gentleman to cover himself entirely with the bed-cloaths, saying she would convey his apparal into another room, so that, if her husband came there, nothing would appear to awaken his suspicion; adding that, under pretence of indisposition, she would prevail upon her husband to sleep in another bed, and then return to the arms of her lover.

The cloaths being removed, a consultation was held, when it was agreed by the gang that they should immediately pack up all their moveables and decamp with their booty, which, exclusive of the cane, watch, sword and ring, amounted to an hundred guineas.

The amorous youth waited in a state of the utmost impatience till morning, when he rang the bell, which brought the people of the house to the chamber-door, but they could not gain admittance, the fair fugitive having turned the lock and taken away the key; but the door being forced open, an eclaircissement ensued. The gentleman represented in what manner he had been treated, but the people of the house were deaf to his expostulations, and threatened to circulate the adventure throughout the town, unless he would indemnify them for the loss they had sustained. Rather than hazard the exposure of his character, he agreed to discharge the debt Jenny had contracted: and dispatched a messenger for

cloaths and money, that he might take leave of a house of which he had sufficient reason to regret having been an inhabitant.

Our heroine's share of the produce of the above adventure amounted to seventy pounds. This infamous association was now become so notorious a pest to society, that they judged it prudent to leave the metropolis, where they were apprehensive they could not long remain concealed from justice. They practised a variety of stratagems with great success in different parts of the country: but, upon re-visiting London, Jenny was committed to Newgate, on a charge of having picked a gentleman's pocket; for which she was sentenced to transportation.

She remained in the above prison near four months, during which time she employed a considerable sum in the purchase of stolen effects. When she went on board the transport-vessel she shipped a quantity of goods, nearly sufficient to load a waggon. The property she possessed ensured her great respect and every possible convenience and accommodation during the voyage: and on her arrival in Virginia she disposed of her goods, and for some time lived in great splendour and elegance.

She soon found that America was a country where she could expect but little emolument from the practices she had so successfully followed in England; and therefore she employed every art that she was mistress of to ingratiate herself into the esteem of a young gentleman who was preparing to embark on board a vessel bound for the port of London. He became much enamoured of her, and brought her to England: but while the ship lay at Gravesend, she robbed him of all the property she could get into her possession, and

pretending an indisposition, intimated a desire of going on shore, in which her admirer acquiesced; but she was no sooner on land than she made a precipitate retreat.

She now travelled through several parts of the country, and by her usual wicked practices obtained many considerable sums. At length she returned to London, but was not able to find her former accomplices.

She now frequented the Royal Exchange, the theatres, London Bridge, and other places of public resort, and committed innumerable depredations on the public. Being detected in picking a gentleman's pocket upon London Bridge, she was taken before a magistrate, to whom she declared that her name was Jane Webb, and by that appellation she was committed to Newgate.

On her trial a gentleman, who had detected her in the very act of picking the prosecutor's pocket, deposed, that a person had applied to him, offering fifty pounds on condition that he should not appear in support of the prosecution: and a lady swore, that on the day she committed the offence for which she stood indicted, she saw her pick the pockets of more than twenty different people. The record of her former conviction was not produced in court; and therefore she was arraigned for privately stealing; and on the clearest evidence the jury pronounced her guilty. The property being valued at less than one shilling, she was sentenced to transportation.

A twelvemonth had not elapsed before she returned from transportation a second time; and on her arrival in London she renewed her former practices.

A lady going from Sherborn-Lane to Walbrooke was accosted by a man who took her

hand, seemingly as if to assist her in crossing some planks that were placed over the channel for the convenience of passengers: but he squeezed her fingers with so much force as to give her great pain, and in the mean time Jenny picked her pocket of thirteen shillings and a penny. The gentlewoman, conscious of being robbed, seized the thief by the gown, and she was immediately conducted to the compter. She was examined the next day by the lord mayor, who committed her to Newgate in order for trial.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey she was tried on an indictment for privately stealing, and the jury brought in the verdict, "guilty;" in consequence of which she received sentence of death.

After conviction she seemed sincerely to repent of the course of iniquity in which she had so long persisted, punctually attending prayers in the chapel, and employing great part of her time in private devotions. The day preceding that on which she was executed she sent for the woman who nursed her child, then about three years old, and after informing her that there was a person who would pay for the infant's maintenance, earnestly entreated that it might be carefully instructed in the duties of religion, and guarded from all temptations to wickedness, and then acknowledging that she had long been a daring offender against the laws both of God and man, entreated the woman to pray for the salvation of her soul, then took her leave, seeming to be deeply impressed with sentiments of contrition.

On the following morning she appeared to be in a serene state of mind: but being brought into the press-yard, the executioner approached to put the halter about her, when her fortitude abated:



abated: but in a short time her spirits were again tolerably composed.

She was conveyed to Tyburn in a mourning-coach, being attended by a clergyman, to whom she declared her firm belief in all the principles of the Protestant religion.

At the place of execution she employed a considerable time in fervent prayer; and then her life was resigned a sacrifice to those laws which she had most daringly violated.

She was executed on the 18th of March, 1740; and her remains were, by her particular desire, interred in St. Pancras church-yard.

We may, perhaps, fix the most dangerous period of life to be between the years of sixteen and twenty. As we approach towards maturity we grow impatient of controul, regardless of all advice that does not flatter the prevailing humour, and direct all our attention to a state of independency, which youthful imagination represents as the summit of human felicity, where no inconvenience can obtrude but such as may, without difficulty, be repelled by the mere efforts of our own resolution.

The advice of a parent sinks into the mind with double weight: but we should allow the due force to such as is offered by those who are unconnected with us in the ties of blood. If the conduct that is recommended to us points to the happiness of life, what folly is it to neglect the sacrifice of idle inclination, the indulgence of which will yield but a slight and temporary gratification, though, it may, perhaps, prove the source of severe and long regret.

There are those who censure the laws of these kingdoms as being of too sanguinary a complexion. Be it admitted that there is something extremely

## NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR.

extremely dreadful in the idea of depriving a fellow-creature of existence at a time when the weight of his sins is more than sufficient to sink him into everlasting perdition: but, as partial favour must always give way to considerations for the public good, it should be remembered that the lives of individuals are not sacrificed so much for the sake of punishing them for the offences of which they have been guilty, as with a view of making them public examples for the discountenance of vice. Justice may, for a time, be eluded, and no inconvenience may have been sustained by the injured party, who, though entertaining no private animosity, but even tenderly compassionating the offender, will be induced, by his regard to the public, to enforce the law, which can never lose the power to operate. How dangerous, then, must be the situation of those who have been guilty of acts of delinquency! The dread of a violent and disgraceful death, and all the horrors of conscious guilt must continually rush upon their minds, and render them miserable beyond all the powers of expression.

Persons who, having infringed the laws of their country, are committed to prison, too frequently are known to employ their time in a very unprofitable manner. How can this conduct be accounted for but by supposing that they cherish the expectation of an acquittal? No circumstances in life are so desperate as to exclude the hope of a favourable change of fortune. In support of this assertion it need only be said, that an instance cannot be produced where the most notorious offender has, even at the place of execution, declined the thoughts of a reprieve.

To consider the terrible situation of a condemned prisoner must unquestionably prove distressing  
in

in a peculiar degree to a humane mind. The unhappy object stands tottering on the verge of eternity, and the dreadful prospect wholly incapacitates him for making that preparation which is necessary to so important a change; for it is a reasonable supposition that under such alarming circumstances the mind must be so violently agitated as to be deprived of the power of exerting its usual functions; and there is too much reason to apprehend that, when repentance is thus long delayed, there will be but a feeble support for the hope of its efficacy. Therefore we should employ the short space between this life and eternity in yielding a perfect obedience to the Divine will: no opportunity should be neglected of making application to the Almighty power for obtaining forgiveness of those offences of which we have been guilty in daring to insult his sacred laws; for death is clothed in terrors, which the man possessed of the utmost fortitude of which human nature is capable cannot behold with calmness, even when his mind is undisturbed by the upbraidings of a guilty conscience.

Disgusted at the prudent conduct of the old lady in discountenancing her amour with the footman, the unfortunate young woman, whose memoirs are recorded in the preceding narrative, resolved to desert her benevolent patroness, from whom she had experienced all the tenderness of maternal affection: and this act of indiscretion led to those crimes which were followed by an untimely and ignominious death. Hence, then, it appears that we cannot employ too much solicitude for avoiding a conduct that conscience cannot entirely approve.

It seems to be a failing in our nature that when we have once transgressed the bounds of virtue,  
every

every new temptation to vice is considered with less abhorrence. Let us, then, be careful to check the first impulse to wickedness, and rest firmly assured, that from a clear conscience will inevitably result that supreme happiness which the accidents of life can never disturb, and which can only be exceeded by the inexpressible blessings of a future state; while guilt is attended by continual alarms, anxieties, and apprehensions; and threatened with the eternal vengeance of an offended God!

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.





THE  
NEW AND COMPLETE  
**Newgate Calendar ;**  
OR,  
**VILLANY DISPLAYED**  
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

Containing New and Authentic Accounts of all the Lives, Adventures, Exploits, Trials, Executions, and Last Dying Speeches, Confessions, (as well as Letters to their Relatives never before published) of the most Notorious Malefactors and others of both Sexes and all Denominations, who have suffered Death and other exemplary Punishments for

|                 |                    |                    |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Murders,        | Forgeries,         | Rapes,             | Swindling,         |
| Burglaries,     | Highway Robberies, | Riots, Mobbing,    | High-Treason,      |
| Felonies,       | Footpad Robberies, | Sodomy,            | Petit-Treason,     |
| Horse-Stealing, | Perjuries,         | Starving to Death, | Sedition and other |
| Bigamy,         | Piracies,          | Sheep Stealing,    | Misdemeanors.      |

Interpersed with Notes, Reflections, and Remarks, arising from the several Subjects, Moral, Useful, and Entertaining.

Including the Transactions of the most remarkable Prisoners, tried for High Treason at the Old Bailey, viz. HARDY, HORNE TOOKE, THELWALL, &c.

Likewise the Trials of WATT, DOWNIE, PALMER, FITZGERALD, MARGAROTT, &c. &c. at Edinburgh for High Treason, Sedition, Libels, &c. &c.

Comprehending also, all the most material Passages in the SESSIONS PAPERS for a long Series of Years ; together with the ORDINARY of NEWGATE'S Account of the CAPITAL CONVICTS ; and complete NARRATIVES of all the most remarkable TRIALS.

Also a great Variety of the most important Lives and Trials never before published in any former Work of the Kind.

The whole containing the most faithful Narratives ever yet published of the various Executions, and other exemplary Punishments, which have happened in England, Scotland and Ireland, from the Year 1700, to the present Time. Properly arranged from the Records of Court.

---

By WILLIAM JACKSON, Esq.

Of the Inner-Temple, Barrister at Law ; Assisted by Others.

---

How dreadful the Fate of the Wretches who fall,  
A Victim of Laws they have broke !  
Of Vice, the Beginning is frequently small,  
But how fatal at length is the Stroke !  
The Contents of these Volumes will amply display  
The Steps which Offenders have trod :  
Learn hence, then, each Reader, the Laws to obey  
Of your Country, your King, and your G.d.

---

IN SIX VOLUMES.

---

VOL. III.

---

Illustrated with upwards of Sixty Elegant Copper Plates.

---

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETORS :

Published by ALEX. HOGG, at No. 16, Paternoster Row ;  
And Sold by all Booksellers and Newsmen in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.









*Dodd delin.*

*Taylor sculp.*

*View of the PUBLIC OFFICE Bow Street, with Sir  
John Fielding presiding, & a prisoner under examination*



---

T H E

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR;

O R,

MALEFACTOR'S BLOODY REGISTER.

---

Account of CHARLES DREW, who was hanged at *St. Edmund's-Bury, Suffolk*, for the *Murder* of his Father.

THIS offender was the son of an attorney of great practice at Long-Melford in Suffolk; who, though a man of good fortune, was of so unaccountable a disposition that he neglected the education of his son to such a degree that the boy was brought up in the most astonishing degree of ignorance\*; so that, though his person was agreeable, and his talents not of the inferior kind, there was no probability of his ever making a respectable figure in life.

Mr. Drew the elder quarrelled with, and lived separate from his wife, and behaved in the most reserved and unfriendly manner to his children,

No. 21.

A 2

who

---

\* There is another book of this kind which says that Charles "received a liberal education;" but all the authentic accounts affirm the contrary; and agree that he was brought up in almost total ignorance.

who were five daughters, besides the unhappy son who murdered him.

When the son arrived at years of maturity he became acquainted with one Elizabeth Boyer, who submitted to his solicitations, but was a woman of so much art, that most people thought he would marry her; and when she urged him to it, he said, "Betsey, let us stay a little longer: in " will be worse for us both if I do it now, for my " father will certainly disinherit me:" to which she replied "I wish somebody would shoot the old dog."

This discourse was heard to pass between them in the month of January, 1740, and Mr. Drew was found murdered in his house on the first of February following. On enquiry into the affair it was suspected by many that Mr. Drew was shot with a gun which had been lent to his son by Mrs. Boyer; and though no prosecution was commenced against her, there was every reason to imagine that she had been the chief instigator of his committing so atrocious a crime.

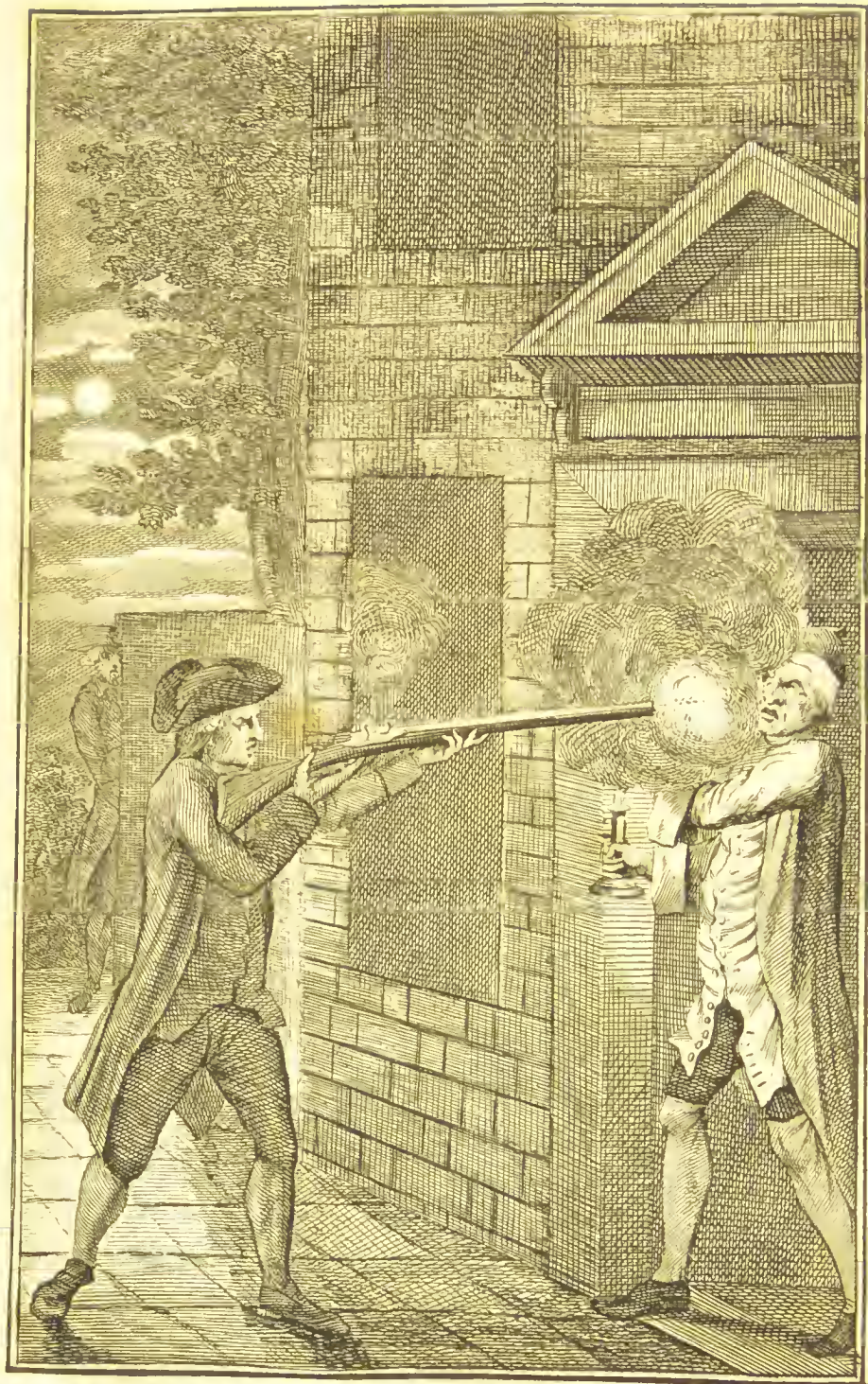
Charles having been to the assizes at Chelmsford, fell into company with some smugglers, among whom was one Humphreys, a hardened villain, calculated for the execution of any desperate enterprize. With this man he held a conference; telling him that he would inform him of a scheme by which he might make his fortune, if he would meet him at Mrs. Boyer's lodgings.

Humphreys accordingly met him; when Drew promised to settle two hundred pounds a year on him if he would murder his father; and likewise give him a considerable sum in money. Humphreys hesitated some time: but at length consenting to the horrid proposal, they went together towards the house, having a gun loaded with flugs, about eleven at night on the 31st of January.

From







W. Grainger, int. et sc.  
CHARLES DREW. *Shooting his own FATHER,*  
*at Long-Melford, in Suffolk.*



From the best accounts we have of this transaction, it seems as if it was agreed that young Drew was to stand at a distance, while Humphreys was to knock at the door, and ask for the old man; and to shoot him when he came to speak to him; but his courage failing him when he came near the spot, he threw down the gun, saying he would have no concern in the murder.

On this young Drew commanded him to keep silence on pain of death; and taking up the gun, went to the door, and when his father opened it, shot him dead on the spot.

Having committed this horrid parricide, he went away with Humphreys, to whom he said, "The job is done;" on which Humphreys went to Dunmow in Essex, where he had appointed to meet some smugglers that night; and after that travelled to London.

An inquest being held on the body of the deceased; and Humphreys having heard that he was suspected, he returned into the country, and was apprehended: but did not impeach Drew till some time afterwards, when the interception of some letters discovered the nature of the connection that had subsisted between them.

Humphreys deposed on the trial, that meeting the prisoner about a fortnight after the murder was committed, he asked him if he was not concerned at the death of his father; to which he replied in the negative, saying, "If he had lived he would have ruined the family." Humphreys likewise endeavoured to exculpate himself from having had any share in the murder: but how far he is to be credited in this matter our readers will judge.

Young Drew going to London made application for the king's pardon to any person except him

him who had actually murdered his father; in consequence of which an advertisement to that purpose was inserted in the London Gazette, signed by the secretary of state; and another advertisement followed it, in which Drew himself offered a reward of a hundred pounds, on conviction of the murderer. This procedure appears evidently to have been intended to take off all suspicion from himself, though he meant not to fix it on Humphreys.

This latter being apprehended on suspicion, gave such an indifferent account of the transaction, that he was ordered to be kept in custody: and while he was in prison Drew sent him twenty pounds, with the promise of a hundred more.

After Humphreys was committed, the suspicion of his guilt grew stronger, and was corroborated by several informations. This gave Drew great uneasiness: he took the utmost pains to suppress all farther informations, and even to destroy the credibility of those already made. He publicly declared that Humphreys was not the man who shot his father, and threatened to prosecute the officer who apprehended him.

In the mean time Drew resided in London, where he changed his name to that of Roberts, and corresponded with Humphreys, who had assumed the name of John Smith. Some of the letters falling into the hands of Timothy Drew, Esq. a namesake only, he went to London in search of the murderer; and after repeated enquiries, was told that he lodged in Sheer-Lane, whither he went, and enquired for him by the name of Roberts.

The people of the house said that they had no lodgers: but the gentleman, who had a magistrate's warrant for apprehending the offender, in-

sifted on searching the house; but the search was made in vain.

On this he went to several bagnios, and at length to Eastmead's in Leicester-Fields, where he enquired for Mr. Roberts. It should seem that Drew had given orders to be denied; for the landlord said that all the gentlemen who had lodged there the preceding night were gone. Mr. Timothy Drew observing the landlord whisper to one of the waiters, suspected the truth of this declaration, called for a pint of wine, and asked the waiter to drink with him.

After some conversation, he raised his voice, and in a positive manner declared that he knew Mr. Roberts was in the house, but that his real name was Charles Drew, and that he had murdered his father; and he threatened to have all the people in the house apprehended for concealing a murderer.

The authoritative manner in which he spoke induced the waiter to confess that the gentleman was in the house; and the unwelcome visitor being introduced to him, said that he had a warrant to apprehend him, and take him before Justice De Veil, on a charge of having murdered his father.

Hereupon he was conducted to the house of the above-mentioned magistrate; and, after an examination of above six hours, was committed to Newgate under a strong guard.

During his residence in the prison he offered, and actually gave, to Jonathan Keate, the turnkey, a bond of half his fortune, on the condition of permitting him to escape, and accompanying him to France: and for the farther security of Keate, he executed a bond to him for the payment of a thousand pounds.

The turnkey seemed to comply, and the time was fixed on for their departure; but the man having informed Mr. Akerman, the keeper, of the progress of the affair, Drew was removed into the old condemned-hold, where a guard was placed over him night and day.

On the approach of the assizes, he was sent to the goal of St. Edmund's-bury; and Humphreys being admitted an evidence, Drew was convicted after a trial of several hours.

After conviction he seemed not to have a proper sense of the enormity of the crime of which he had been guilty; and would have attributed it to his father's ill treatment of him. He said that his father denied him necessary money for his expences; and his having refused to make over an estate to him, was the first instigation to his committing the horrid crime.

He was visited by his sisters, who carefully avoided reflecting on him; and did all in their power to console him in his unhappy situation.

He was hanged near St. Edmund's-Bury, on the 9th of April, 1740, amidst the greatest crowd of spectators that were almost ever assembled on such a melancholy occasion in that part of the country.

He seemed to part with life with evident signs of reluctance, begging the clergyman who attended him to continue the devotions to the last possible moment. This man suffered in the 25th year of his age.

The crime of murder is in itself so horrid, that it requires no aggravation: but that of parricide is of the worst species of murder. The destruction of those from whom, under God, we have immediately derived our being, has something in it so shocking to humanity, that one would think it impossible that it should ever be committed.

Some



Some of the nations of antiquity held it to be an absolute impossibility; and for that reason provided no laws for its punishment: but that it should prevail in a *christian* country is truly astonishing.

May the readers of this work be impressed with a proper sense of the obligation they owe to the parental character; so that it may be unnecessary to repeat to them that great lesson of duty, HONOUR thy FATHER and thy MOTHER!



Account of ELIZABETH BRANCH, and MARY BRANCH her Daughter, who were hanged at *Iwelchester*, for the *Murder* of JANE BUTTERSWORTH.

PHILIPS-NORTON, in Somersetshire, gave birth to the elder Mrs. Branch, who was distinguished from her childhood by the cruelty of her disposition, which encreased with her encreasing years, and frequently discovered itself on various occasions, and particularly in fomenting divisions among her father's servants, to render whom unhappy appeared to be one of the greatest pleasures of her life.

Her parents observing with regret this ferocity of temper, told her that she would never get a husband unless she changed her conduct. This seemed for a while to have some influence on her, which gave great satisfaction to her parents; but it will appear from the following narrative that this influence was not lasting.

Being addressed by a gentleman-farmer, named Branch, a marriage took place; but the husband soon found what an unfortunate choice he had

made; for his wife no sooner came into possession of her matrimonial power, than she began to exercise her tyranny on her servants, whom she treated with undeserved, and unaccountable cruelty, frequently denying them the common necessities of life, and sometimes turning them out of doors at night, in the midst of winter: but their wages in these cases were sent them by Mr. Branch, who was as remarkable for his humanity and justice, as his wife for the opposite qualities. Mary Branch, the daughter, was an exact resemblance of her mother in every part of her diabolical temper.

Mr. Branch dying, and leaving an estate of about three hundred pounds a year, he was no sooner buried than all the servants quitted the family, determined not to live with so tyrannical a mistress; and her character became so notorious that she could obtain no servants but poor creatures who were put out by the parish, or casual vagrants who strolled the country.

It is needless to mention the particulars of the cruelties of this inhuman mother and daughter to their other servants; at whom they used to throw plates, knives and forks, on any offence, real or supposed: we shall therefore proceed to an account of their trial and execution for the murder of Jane Butterworth, a poor girl who had been placed with them by the parish officers.

At the assizes held at Taunton in Somersetshire, in March 1740, Elizabeth Branch and Mary her daughter, were indicted for the wilful murder of Jane Butterworth; when the principal evidence against them was in substance as follows:

Ann Somers, the dairy-maid, deposed that the deceased having been sent for some yeast, and  
stay,

staying longer than was necessary, excused herself to her old mistress on her return, by telling a lie; on which the daughter struck her violently on the head with her fist, and pinched her ears. Then both of them threw her on the ground, and the daughter kneeled on her neck, while the mother whipped her with twigs till the blood ran on the ground, and the daughter taking off one of the girl's shoes, beat her with it in a cruel manner. The deceased cried for mercy, and, after some struggles, ran into the parlour, whither they followed her, and beat her with broomsticks till she fell down senseless, after which the daughter threw a pail of water on her, and used her with other circumstances of cruelty too gross to mention.

Somers now went out to milk her cows, and on her return, at the expiration of half an hour, found her mistress sitting by the fire, and the girl lying dead on the floor: but she observed that a clean cap had been put on her head since she went out; and that the blood had ran through it.

Saying she believed the girl was dead, the old mistress gave her abusive language: and the deceased being put to bed, Somers was ordered to lie with her; which she was obliged to comply with, in the fear of being treated in a manner equally cruel. Somers was not suffered to go out on the following day; and at night the body was privately buried.

This transaction, added to the character of the mistresses, having raised a suspicion in the neighbourhood, a warrant was issued by the coroner to take up the body, and an inquest being made into the cause of the girl's death, Mr. Salmon, a surgeon, declared that she had received several wounds, almost any one of which would have proved mortal.

The defence made by the prisoners on their trial was that the prosecution was malicious; for that the deceased had been subject to fits, in one of which she fell down, and received the bruises which occasioned her death: but bringing no proofs in support of this allegation, the jury found them guilty, and they were sentenced to die.

After conviction they entertained great hopes of a pardon; and presented a petition to the judge; but all the favour they could obtain was a respite for five weeks, in consideration that Mrs. Branch might have some temporal affairs to settle.

The mother appeared for some time little concerned under her misfortunes; but the daughter lamented her unhappy fate, and begged the prayers of every one whom she saw.

A sermon was preached to them on the night before their execution; which seemed to have a great effect on the mother, who now began seriously to reflect on her approaching exit; and both of them made due preparation for death.

As the country people were violently enraged against them, they were conducted to the place of execution between three and four in the morning, attended only by the goaler and about half a dozen people, lest they should have been torn in pieces.

When they came to the spot, it was found that the gibbet had been cut down; on which a carpenter was sent for, who immediately put up another; and they were executed before six o'clock, to the disappointment of thousands of people, who had come from all parts of the country, to witness the exit of two such unworthy wretches.

They were hanged at Ivelchester in Somersetshire, on the 3d of May, 1740.

Just



Just before they were turned off Mrs. Branch made the following speech :

“ Good people,

**Y**OU who are masters and mistresses of families, to you I speak in a more particular manner. Let me advise that you never harbour cruel, base and mean thoughts of your servants, as that they are your slaves and drudges, and that any sort of usage, be it ever so bad, is good enough for them. These, and such like, were the thoughts that made me use my servants as slaves, vagabonds and thieves ; it was these that made me spurn at and despise them, and led me on from one degree of cruelty to another.

Keep your passions within due bounds ; let them not get the mastery over you, lest they bring you to this ignoble end. I am fully punished for all my severities ; and it is true, I did strike my maid, but not with a design to kill her ; and so far I think the sentence now about to be executed upon me is unjust ; but the Lord forgive my prosecutors, and all those who have maliciously and falsely sworn against me.

Another caution I would give to you, who are parents, namely, to suppress in your children the first appearance of cruelty and barbarity. Nothing grieves me so much under this dreadful shock, as that I have by my example, and by my commands, made my daughter guilty with me, of the same follies, cruelties and barbarities, and thereby have involved her in the same punishment with myself.

I declare I had no design of killing the deceased, as the Lord is my judge, and before whom I must shortly appear. I beg of you to pray for me  
unto

unto God, that my sins may be forgiven me, and that I may be received to mercy."

After this the daughter spoke these few words :

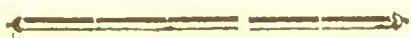
" Good people, pity my unhappy case, who, while young, was trained up in the paths of cruelty and barbarity ; and let all present take warning by my unhappy end, so as to avoid the like crimes. You see I am cut off in the prime of life, in the midst of my days. Good people pray for me."

Nothing need be said in aggravation of a crime so enormous as that for which these guilty wretches suffered. Cruelty in any case is inexcusable ; but cruelty to the poor, the helpless, the unfriended, is doubly shocking to all the feelings of humanity.

The little care which is taken in placing out the poor children from a parish workhouse is an object of serious regret. Those who have not relations capable of providing for them, are by that circumstance still more the objects of the public beneficence ; and though the laws have enjoined that proper regard should be had to them, yet such is the avarice, or such the thoughtlessness by which too many are actuated, that those who have the utmost title to our compassion experience the least of it.

We hope, however, that the time will come, when the laws of humanity will be deemed to have at least equal force with the laws of the land ; and that the subjects of these united kingdoms will consider it as their highest honour to prove that they are likewise subject to the mild and beneficent doctrines of christianity !

The



The very singular Life and Adventures of GILBERT LANGLEY, who was capitally convicted for a *Highway Robbery*, but transported.

THE father of Langley was a goldsmith in London, of the Roman Catholic persuasion; who sent his son to the seat of his grandfather in Derbyshire, when he was only three years of age.

Having continued in this situation four years, his mother's anxiety induced her to fetch him home, soon after which he was entered in the school of the Charter-house, where he soon became a tolerably good classical scholar.

The father now wished to send his son abroad for farther education, and that he might not fail of being brought up a strict Catholic; but this was warmly opposed by the mother, through tenderness to her child: but her death soon left the father to act as he pleased.

The Prior of the Benedictine convent at Douay being in London, Langley's father agreed for his board and education, and committed him to the care of his new master, with whom he proceeded to Dover, sailed for Calais, and travelled thence to St. Omers, and on the following day reached Douay, where young Langley was examined by the Prior and fellows of the college, and admitted of the school.

At the end of three years he became a tolerable master of the French language, exclusive of his other literary acquirements; so that, at the Christmas following, he was chosen king of the class, which is a distinction bestowed on one of the best scholars, whose business it is to regulate the public entertainments of the school.

It is the custom at Douay for officers to attend at the gates of the town, to detect any persons bringing in contraband liquors, because the merchants of the place pay a large duty on them, which duty is annually farmed by the highest bidder.

During the Christmas holidays Langley and three of his school-fellows quitted the town, to purchase a small quantity of brandy at an under price; but being observed by a soldier, who saw their bottles filled, he informed the officers of the affair; the consequence of which was that the young gentlemen were stopped, and the liquor found, hid under their cassocks. They offered money for their release; but it was refused, and they were conducted to the house of the Farmer-general.

At the instant of their arrival two Franciscan Friars seeing them, said it was illegal to take students before the civil magistrate, because the superior of their own college was accountable for their conduct.

Hereupon they were taken home to the Prior; and the Farmer-General making his demand of the customary fine, the Prior thought it extravagant, and refused to pay it: but at length the matter was settled by arbitration.

In the Catholic colleges the students live in a very meagre manner during the season of Lent, having little to subsist on but bread and four wine; a circumstance that frequently tempts them to supply their wants by acts of irregularity.

At this season Langley, and five of his companions, oppressed by the calls of hunger, determined to make an attack on the kitchen: but at the instant they had forced open the door, they were overheard by the servants, the consequence



of which was that many furious blows were exchanged by the contending parties.

On the following day the delinquents were summoned to attend the Prior, who was so incensed at this outrage against the good order of the society, that he declared they should be expelled as soon as a consistory of the Monks could be held.

But when the consistory assembled, they resolved to pardon all the offenders on acknowledging their faults, and promising not to renew them, except one, named Brown, who had twice knocked down the shoemaker of the college, because he had called out to alarm the Prior.

The young gentlemen, chagrined at losing their associate, determined to be revenged on some one, at least, of the servants who had given evidence against them; and after revolving many schemes, they determined that the man who lighted the fires should be the object of their vengeance, because he had struck several of them during the rencounter.

This being resolved on, they disguised themselves, and went to a wood-house adjacent to the college, and being previously provided with rods, they waited till the man came with his wheel-barrow to fetch wood, when one of them going behind him, threw a cloak over his head, which being immediately tied round his neck, the rest stripped him, and flogged him in the most severe manner, while he in vain called for assistance, but was unheard; as our heroes had taken previous care to shut the door of the wood-house.

The flagellation was just ended when the bell rung for the students to attend their evening exercise; on which they left the unhappy

of their revenge, and repaired to the public hall.

In the mean time the poor sufferer ran into the Cloysters, exclaiming, "Le Diable! Le Diable!" as if he had really thought the devil had tormented him: and hence he ran to the kitchen, where he recounted the adventure to his fellow-servants, who dressed his wounds, carried him to bed, and gave him something to nourish him.

A suspicion arising that the students had been the authors of this calamity to the poor fellow, the servants communicated the circumstances of it to the Prior, who promised his endeavours to find out and punish the delinquents: and with this view went into the hall, with a look at once penetrating and indignant: but the young gentlemen having bound themselves to secrecy by an oath, no discovery could be made.

Young Langley having distinguished himself by his attention to literature for the space of two years, the Monks began to consider him as one who would make a valuable acquisition to their society; for which reason they treated him with singular respect; and at length prevailed upon him to agree to enter into their fraternity, if his father's consent could be obtained.

As Langley was in no want of money, he frequently went into the town, to habituate himself to the manners of the people, and to observe their customs. Thursday being a holiday, he and one of his school-fellows named Meynel, asked the Prior permission to walk on the ramparts, which being denied, they went out without leave, and repairing to a tavern, drank wine till they were fairly inebriated.

In this condition they went to the ramparts, where having been for some time the laughing-stock

stock of the company, they went home to bed. Being missed at evening prayers, some of the other students apologized for their absence, by saying they were ill; and the excuse was very readily admitted: but in a few days afterwards a gentleman called on the Prior, and told him what a ridiculous figure his students had made on the ramparts.

Incensed at this violation of their duty, the Prior sent for them to his chamber, and gave orders that they should be flogged with great severity. This indignity had such an effect on the mind of Langley, that he grew reserved and morose, and would have declined all his studies, but that one of the Monks, called Father Howard, restored him to his good humour by his indulgent treatment, and persuaded him to pay his usual attention to literature.

Father Howard's considerate conduct had such an effect on Langley, that he spent the greater part of his time with that gentleman, who instructed him in the principles of logic, and was about to initiate him in those of philosophy, when his father wrote a letter, requiring him to return to his native country.

The society being unwilling to lose one whom they thought would become a valuable member, the Prior wrote to England, requesting that the youth might be permitted to compleat his education; but the father insisted on his return.

Hereupon the young gentleman left the College, and proceeding by the way of St. Omer's, reached Calais in two days. As the wind was contrary, it was some days longer before the company embarked for England, when, instead of putting into Dover, the vessel came round to the

Thames, and the passengers were landed at Gravesend.

Langley having spent all his money at Calais, now affected an air of unconcern, saying that he had no English money in his possession, from his having been so long abroad; on which one of the company lent him money, and on the following day he arrived at his father's house in London.

When he had reposed himself some days after his journey, the father desired him to make choice of some profession; on which he mentioned his inclination to study physic or law; but the old gentleman, who had no good opinion of either of these professions, persuaded him to follow his own trade of a goldsmith.

For the present, however, he was placed at an academy, in Chancery-lane, that he might be instructed in those branches of knowledge requisite for a tradesman: but becoming acquainted with some young gentlemen of the law, he found that his father's allowance of pocket-money was insufficient for his use; and being unwilling that his new acquaintance should think that he was deficient in cash, he purloined small sums from a drawer in his father's shop, and when he did not find any money there, stole some pieces of broken gold, which he disposed of to the Jews.

Mr. Langley the elder having sent his son with some plate to the house of a gentleman in Grosvenor-square, the youth saw a very beautiful woman go into a shop opposite a public-house; on which he went into the latter, and enquiring after her, found she had gone to her own lodgings. Ascertained in this, he delivered his plate, and formed a resolution of visiting the lady on the Sunday following.

When



When the Sunday came the old gentleman went out, and, as the son imagined, to smoke his pipe at an adjacent public-house; and in the mean time the son stole seven guineas from three different bags, that his father might not discover the robbery, and immediately repaired to the lodgings of the lady whom he had seen.

From her lodgings they went to a tavern, where they continued till the following day, having no idea of a detection: but it happened that Mr. Langley, senior, instead of going to the public-house as usual, watched the son to the tavern above-mentioned.

On the following day the father interrogated the youth respecting his preceding conduct; and particularly asked where he had been the day before. The young fellow said he had been at church, where he met with some acquaintance, who prevailed on him to go to a tavern.

The father, knowing the falsehood of this tale, corrected his son in a severe manner, and forbade him to dine at his table till his conduct should be reformed. Thus obliged to associate with the servants, young Langley became soon too intimate with the kitchen-maid, and robbed his father to buy such things as he thought would be acceptable to her.

Among other things he purchased her a pair of shoes laced with gold, which he was presenting to her in the parlour, at the very moment that his father knocked at the door. The girl instantly quitted the room; but the old gentleman interrogating the son respecting the shoes, the latter averred that a lady who said she had bought them in the neighbourhood, desired leave to deposit them at their house till the following day.

After

After this the father permitted the son to dine with him as usual ; but it was not long before he caught him in a too intimate connection with the maid-servant in the kitchen ; on which the girl was dismissed from her service, and Mr. Langley threatened to reprobate his son, unless he would reform his conduct.

A middle-aged woman of grave appearance was now hired as a servant ; but the evil complained of was far from being cured, as an intimacy between her and the young gentleman was soon discovered by the father.

It was not long after the servant-girl above-mentioned had been discharged before she swore herself pregnant by the son : on which he was taken into custody by a warrant, the consequence of which was that the father paid fifteen pounds to compromise the affair ; after which he received the son to his favour, and forgave all the errors of his former conduct.

The death of the old gentleman put his son in possession of a considerable fortune, exclusive of a settled good trade ; and for the first year he applied himself so closely to business that he made a neat profit of seven hundred pounds : but he did not long continue this course of industry ; for having formerly made connections with women of ill fame, particularly in the purlieus of Drury-Lane, he now renewed his visits to those wretched victims to, and punishers of, the vices of men.

A man of genteel appearance, named Gray, having ordered plate of Langley to the amount of a hundred pounds. invited him to the tavern to drink. In the course of the conversation the stranger said he had dealt with his late father, and would introduce him to a lady who had thirty thou-

thousand pounds to her fortune. This was only a scheme to defraud Langley, who delivered the plate, and took a draught for the money on a vintner in Bartholomew-Close; but when he went to demand payment the vintner was removed.

On the following day the vintner's wife went to Langley, and informed him that Gray had defrauded her husband of four hundred and fifty pounds; and Langley being of an humane disposition, interested himself so far in behalf of the unfortunate man, that a letter of licence for three years was granted him by his creditors.

Langley now took out an action against Gray, but was not able to find him; when one day he was accosted by a man in Fleet-Street, who asked him to step into a public-house, and he would tell him where he should meet with the defrauder. Langley complying with the proposal, the stranger said he would produce Gray within an hour, if the other would give him a guinea; which being done, the stranger went out, but returned no more.

Exasperated by this circumstance, which seems to have been a contrivance of one of Gray's accomplices, Mr. Langley employed an attorney, who soon found the delinquent, against whom an action was taken out, in consequence of which he was confined several years in the Marshalsea.

Langley now became a sportsman on the turf at Newmarket, under the instructions of a vintner in Holborn, whose niece entered into his service; but who soon fell a victim to his unbounded passion for the sex.

Langley becoming acquainted with some young fellows in the Temple, three of them, and four women of the town, went with him to Greenwich, where they gave the ladies the slip, and

took a boat to London; but the women pursuing them, overtook them in the river, and attempting to board their boat, afforded great diversion to the spectators: but our adventurers watermen rowing hard, they reached the Temple, and concealed themselves in one of the chambers, a few minutes before the ladies landed.

Soon after this Langley made another excursion to Greenwich to visit a lady and gentleman, who having a remarkably handsome servant-maid, our adventurer found means to seduce her: the consequence of which was that she became pregnant, and made repeated application to him for support: whereupon he gave her a considerable sum of money, and heard no more of her from that period.

Thus living in a continual round of dissipation, his friends recommended matrimony as the most likely step to reclaim him: in consequence of which he married a young lady named Brown, with a handsome fortune.

He had not been long married before he determined to borrow all the cash and jewels he could, and decamp with the property. As he had the reputation of being in ample circumstances, he found no difficulty in getting credit for many articles of value, with which he and his wife embarked for Holland: and in the mean time his creditors took out a commission of bankruptcy against him.

When Langley came to Rotterdam, he applied to the States General for a protection, in apprehension of being pursued by his creditors: but the States not being then sitting, the creditors made application to Lord Chesterfield, then ambassador at the Hague, which frustrated his intention.



In the interim his creditors found out his lodgings in a village near Rotterdam ; but he eluded their search, leaving his wife, with four hundred pounds, in the care of a friend ; but did not tell her the place of his retreat, to prevent any possibility of a discovery.

After skulking from place to place, he went back to Rotterdam, and surrendered to his creditors ; but found that his wife was gone with an English captain to Antwerp. On his arrival in England he was examined before the commissioners, and treated with the accustomed lenity shewn to unfortunate tradesmen in such circumstances.

After his affairs were adjusted he sailed to Barbadoes, where he soon contracted so many debts that he was glad to take his passage to Port-Royal in Jamaica : and soon after his arrival there he went to visit a planter at some distance, who would have engaged him as his clerk.

Langley told the planter that he owed twenty dollars at Port Royal, for which he had left his chest as a security. The gentleman instantly giving him the money to redeem it, he went to Port-Royal, assumed the name of Englefield, embarked on board a man of war as midshipman, and came to England, where the ship was paid off at the expiration of six months.

Taking lodgings at Plymouth, he paid his addresses to a young lady, whom he might have married with the consent of her father : but being then in an ill state of health, he pretended to have received a summons from his friends in London, to repair immediately to that city, on an important affair ; but that, as soon as it was adjusted, he would return, and conclude the marriage.

On his arrival in town he sent for a man who had formerly lived with his father, from whom he learnt that the creditors had not made any dividend under the bankruptcy, and were engaged in a law-suit respecting a part of the property. This faithful old servant of his father told him that his wife had retired to the north of England; and giving him money, recommended it to him to lodge privately in Southwark.

This advice he followed; and kept himself retired for some time; but passing through Cheap-side, he was arrested, and conducted to the Poultry Compter, where he continued many months, during which he was supported by the benevolence of the old servant above-mentioned. While in the compter he made some very bad connections; and being concerned with some of the prisoners in an attempt to escape, he was removed to Newgate, as a place of greater security.

While in this prison he fell ill of a disorder which threatened his life; whereupon his friends discharged the debt for which he had been arrested, and removed him to lodgings, where he soon recovered his health.

Soon afterwards he got recommended to a captain in the Levant trade, with whom he was to have sailed; but an unhappy attachment to a woman of ill fame prevented his being ready to make the voyage.

Langley's friends were chagrined at this fresh instance of his imprudence; and soon afterwards he was arrested, and carried to a spunging-house, where he attempted to dispatch himself by a halter; but the rope breaking, he escaped with life. The bailiff and his wife happening to be now absent, and only two maid-servants in the house,

Lang-

Langley made them both drunk, and effecting his escape, crossed the water into the Borough, where he worked some time with a colour-grinder.

Disgusted with a life attended with so much labour, he contracted with the captain of a Jamaica ship, who took him to that island on the condition of selling him as a slave ; and, on his arrival, sold him to Colonel Hill, who employed him to educate his children : but Langley soon running from his employer, went on board a ship bound to England ; but being impressed on his arrival in the Downs, was put on board a man of war, and carried round to Plymouth.

Langley and another man now deserting from the ship strolled to London, and took up their residence in a two-penny lodging : but as Langley now found no friends to support him, he contracted with one of those persons called crimps, who used to agree with unhappy people to go as slaves to the colonies. His contract was to sail to Pennsylvania ; but while the ship lay in the Thames, he and a weaver from Spitalfields made their escape, and travelling to Canterbury, passed themselves as Protestant refugees.

Going hence to Dover, they embarked for Calais ; and after some weeks residence in that place Langley sailed to Lisbon, where he remained only a short time before he contracted debts, which obliged him to seek another residence ; wherefore he went to Malaga in Spain.

His poverty was now extreme ; and while he sat melancholy one day by the sea-side, some priests asked him from what country he came. He answered in Latin " From England."

Hereupon they conducted him to a convent, relieved his distresses, and then began to instruct him in the principles of the Roman Catholic religion.

ligion. Langley disguised his sentiments; and after being apparently made a convert, was recommended as a page to a Spanish lady of distinction.

In this situation he continued several months; but having an affair of gallantry with the niece to the old lady, he was compelled to make a precipitate retreat from a window, and shelter himself in the house of an Irish taylor, who procured a passage for him to Gibraltar in the first ship that sailed.

On his arrival at Gibraltar, he would have entered into the army; but being refused, because he was not tall enough, his distresses compelled him to work as a labourer, in repairing the barracks; but he soon quitted this business, and officiated as a waiter in the Tennis-Court belonging to the garrison: but it being intimated to the governor that he was a spy, he was lodged in a dungeon, where he remained more than a fortnight.

On obtaining his discharge, he embarked on board a Spanish vessel bound to Barbary with corn: and on his return to Spain applied to the monks of a convent, who charitably relieved him, and the prior agreed to take him a voyage to Santa Cruz: but having no great prospect of pecuniary advantage in this way of life, he went to Oratava, where some English merchants contributed to his support; but he soon failed to Genoa, as he could get no settled employ at Oratava.

From Genoa the vessel sailed to Cadiz; and Langley being now appointed steward to the captain, in the course of his reading some letters, found one directed to Messrs. Ryan and Mannock; and having been a schoolfellow with Mr. Mannock, he requested the captain's permission  
to



to go on shore; and was received in the most friendly manner by Mr. Mannock, who offered to serve him in any way within his power: when Langley said that what he wished was a discharge from his present situation.

Hereupon Mannock wrote to the captain, desiring him to pay the steward and discharge him: but this being refused, Langley took a lodging to which he was recommended by his friend, who desired he would dine daily at his table, till he procured a passage for England. He likewise gave him money and cloaths, so as to enable him to appear in the character of a gentleman.

Langley behaved with great regularity for some time; but the season of the carnival advancing, he got into company with a woman of ill fame, with whom he spent the evening; and, on his return, was robbed of his hat, wig, and a book which he had borrowed of his friend.

On the following day Mr. Mannock saw the book laying at a shop for sale: which chagrined him so much that he asked Langley for it; who thereupon acknowledged the whole affair; and Mr. Mannock supposing the woman was privy to the robbery, he took out a warrant against her; by which he recovered his book, which he greatly esteemed.

This matter being adjusted, Langley, by the aid of his friend, procured a passage for England: but, just when he was going to embark, he met with a woman, who detained him till the ship was sailed: on which he took a boat, and passed over to St. Lucar, where he went on board an English vessel, which brought him to his native country.

On his arrival in London, he found that his creditors under the bankruptcy had received ten  
shil-

shillings in the pound, which gave him reason to hope that he should have a sum of money returned to him, with which he proposed to engage in a small way of business; and in that view applied to his wife's mother for her assistance, and also to inform him where he might find his wife: but she positively refused to comply with either request.

Langley now gave himself up to despair, associated with the worst company; and though he had some money left him at this juncture, he dissipated the whole in the most extravagant manner.

He now made an acquaintance with one Hill, a young fellow who was in similar circumstances; and having agreed to go to Paris together, they walked as far as Dover: but, on their arrival, finding that an embargo had been laid on all vessels in the port, they determined to return to London.

Being now destitute of cash, they demanded a man's money on the high-way; but on his saying he had not any, they searched him, and took from him three farthings, which they threw away almost as soon as they had got it: but for this offence they were apprehended on the same day, and being tried at the next assizes for Kent, were capitally convicted; but the sentence was changed to transportation for seven years, through the lenity of the judge.

Langley was transported in the month of December, 1740.

The life of this malefactor will afford as useful a lesson as that of any we have had occasion to record. He had no temptation to theft, but this arose from his own vices; yet could he be vile enough repeatedly to rob his own father which

was in effect but robbing himself; a species of false policy, which one would think none but a fool as well as a villain could have thought of.

His attempt to destroy himself while in a spunging-house, shews to what a degree of desperation the mind of the guilty may be driven. His adventures were strangely numerous and various: yet in no part of the world to which he travelled could he find rest for the sole of his foot.

He was a scholar, yet could meet with no repose in the seminaries of learning: he appears to have been qualified to keep the best company, yet an unhappy propensity to vice, fitted him only for the worst!

In a word, he appears to have been a slave to his own passions. His uncommon attachment to women was one great source of his misfortunes; and he had not learnt, what we hope our readers will learn, by the perusal of this narrative, to "teach the passions to move at the command of "virtue!"

The ignominy that this man underwent in consequence of his vices, should instruct us that nothing is so honourable as strict integrity; nothing so glorious as the practice of true religion!

Account of the Case of HENRY SMYTHEE, Esq.  
who was hanged at *Dorchester* for Murder.

**M**R. SMYTHEE's father having been for many years the commander of a ship in the merchants' service, resigned in favour of his son, who was a young gentleman qualified by nature and appearance, to cut a capital figure in any rank of life.

After

After he had made several voyages, a storm obliged him to put into the harbour of Pool in Dorsetshire, where he saw a young lady, the daughter of a merchant, to whom he paid his addresses, and was in a short time married. His wife's father dying soon after the marriage, Mr. Smythee declined going any longer to sea, engaged in the mercantile business, and employed his leisure hours in rural diversions.

Being one day out with his gun, he wandered so far from home that he lost his way, and being very hungry, he strolled to a cottage kept by a poor widower, named Ralph Mew, who had an only daughter, equally distinguished by the elegance of her form, and the simplicity of her manners.

Mr. Smythee requested the favour of some food; but the countryman suspecting that he meant to take some undue advantage of him, told him he might be supplied at a public-house a mile distant. Smythee, to convince the countryman that he was no impostor, shewed him a diamond ring, a purse of gold, and his watch; on which he was asked to sit down; and Jane Mew, the daughter, fried some bacon and eggs for him, while her father drew some of his best ale.

After his repast, he recounted some of his adventures in foreign parts; but in the mean time regarded the daughter with an eye of desire, and being struck with her superior charms, resolved to get possession of her if possible.

On his quitting the house the old man told him that if he came thither another time, he should be welcome to any thing in his cottage except his daughter. On the following day he went to the cottage, and gave the old man a tortoiseshell



shell snuff-box, as a compliment for his hospitable behaviour the day before.

The old cottager going out, Mr. Smythee paid his warmest addresses to the daughter, to whom he presented some jewels: but she no sooner judged of his design, than she said, "Is it thus, sir, you make returns for my father's hospitality, and my civility? And can you be such a wretch, as to think that my poverty will make me guilty of a dishonourable action?"

Saying this, she rejected his presents with contempt; while he, struck with the force of what she had urged, remained some time speechless, and then attributed his conduct to the violence of his passion, and offered to make her all the satisfaction in his power, by marriage.

The girl acquainting her father with what had passed, Mr. Smythee was permitted to pay his addresses in an honourable way: but such were his artifice and villainy, that his solemn vows of marriage soon prevailed over the too credulous girl; and her ruin was the consequence.

When the father found that his daughter was pregnant, he died of grief, leaving the unhappy girl a prey to the pungent sorrows of her own mind. Distressed as she was, she wrote to her seducer; but as he took no notice of her letter, she went to Pool, and being directed to his house, the door was opened by Mrs. Smythee, who demanded her business, and said she was the wife of the person for whom she enquired. The poor girl was so shocked to find that Mr. Smythee had a wife, that it was with difficulty she was kept from fainting, by the help of brandy.

When somewhat recovered, she said that she was with child by Mr. Smythee, who had seduced

her under promise of marriage. Hereupon the wife censured her conduct with unreasonable severity, and threatened that she should be lodged in prison if she did not immediately quit the town.

Leaving the house, the unhappy creature fainted in the street, and was soon surrounded by a number of females, who insulted her with every term of reproach.

When she recovered her senses she went to a public-house, where she intended to have lodged; but the landlady threatening to send for the beadle, she was obliged to quit the house.

In the interim Mr. Smythee came to his own house, and was compelled to listen to the reproaches of his wife on the infidelity of his conduct.

After attending to this disagreeable lecture, he went out, and desired a person to call on the young woman, and appoint her to meet him at a place without the town.

The unfortunate girl met him accordingly. What passed between them it is impossible to know; but on the following day she was found with her throat cut, and a bloody pen-knife laying by her. Smythee absconding, it was generally supposed that he had been the murderer; and on his return to Pool, about a month afterwards, he was taken into custody, and lodged in the county goal.

In his defence at his trial he urged that the reason of his absence from his family was a quarrel with his wife, in consequence of the unhappy discovery that had been made by the deceiver: but as he could bring no proof of his being absent from the spot when the murder was committed, he was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die.

After

After conviction he was visited by several clergymen, who exerted themselves to impress him with a due sense of his awful situation. He freely acknowledged the great guilt he had incurred in the seduction of the unhappy girl; but he steadily denied being guilty of the murder to the last moment of his life.

As his death advanced, he became still more resigned, acknowledged the many errors of his life, and confessed himself worthy to undergo the rigour of the law.

He walked to the place of execution, amidst the prayers of immense surrounding multitudes; and having ascended the cart, addressed the populace, advising them to refrain from yielding to the first impulses of temptation, as they would wish to be preserved from the violation of the Divine laws. After the usual devotions, he drew his cap over his face, and saying, "To thee, O Lord, I resign my soul," he was launched into eternity.

He was executed at Dorchester, on the 12th of April, 1741.

Thus ended the life of a man who might have lived happy in himself, and an useful member of society: but his submission to an ungenerous passion rendered him obnoxious to the violated laws of God and his country; and finally brought him to condign and exemplary punishment.

It does not clearly appear, from the narrative before us, whether Mr. Smythee was, or was not guilty of the murder for which he suffered: but the presumptions are very strong against him. Be this as it may, there is nothing uncharitable in saying that the man who has been deliberately guilty of the wilful seduction of a harmless wo-

man, cannot be punished too severely, even by an exertion of the utmost rigour of the law.

Character is dearer to a woman than life ; and it is pity we have not a statute to punish the seducer as a murderer. In the mean time, however, he is acutely afflicted by the tormenting pangs of his guilty conscience, which must severely reprobate his conduct, and raise a hell in his own mind.

From this story let our readers be taught that, it is by a proper command of the passions that we are to expect that peace of mind which is the result of conscious virtue ; and that by an improper indulgence of them, we lay a sure foundation for misery in present, and in future.



Particular Account of Captain SAMUEL GOODERE, MATTHEW MAHONY, and CHARLES WHITE, who were hanged near *Bristol for Murder.*

SIR JOHN DINELEY GOODERE succeeded his father Sir Edward in the possession of an estate of three thousand pounds a year, situated near Evesham in Worcestershire.

His brother Samuel, the subject of this narrative, was bred to the sea, and at length was advanced to the rank of captain of a man of war.

Sir John married the daughter of a merchant, and received 20,000*l.* as a marriage-portion ; but mutual unhappiness was the consequence of this connection : for the husband was brutal in his manners, and the wife, perhaps, not strictly observant of the sacred vow she had taken ; for she was too frequently visited by Sir Robert Jansen ;  
and



and after frequent recriminations between the married pair, Sir John brought an action in the Court of Common Pleas, for criminal conversation, and 500*l.* damages were averred by the jury.

Sir John's next step was to indict his lady for a conspiracy, and a conviction following, she was fined, and imprisoned a year in the King's Bench. He likewise petitioned for a divorce; but the matter being heard in the House of Lords, his petition was thrown out.

Sir John having no children, Captain Samuel Goodere formed very sanguine expectations of possessing the estate; but finding that the brother had docked the entail in favour of his sister's children, the captain sought the most diabolical means of revenge for the supposed injury.

While the captain's vessel lay in the port of Bristol, Sir John went to that city on business; and being engaged to dine with an attorney, named Smith, the captain prevailed on the latter to permit him to make one of their company, under pretence of being reconciled to his brother. Mr. Smith consented, and used his good offices to accommodate the difference; and a sincere reconciliation appeared to have taken place.

This visit was made on the 10th of January, 1741, and the captain having previously concerted his measures, brought some sailors on shore with him, and left them at a public-house, in waiting to seize the baronet in the evening.

Accordingly, when the company broke up, the captain attended his brother through the streets, and when they came opposite the public-house, the seamen ran out, seized Sir John, and conveyed him to a boat that had been appointed to wait for his reception.

Some persons who were witnesses to this outrage would have rescued the unfortunate gentleman; but the captain telling them that he was a deserter, and the darkness of the evening preventing them from judging by his appearance, this violation of the laws was permitted to pass unobstructed.

As soon as the devoted victim was in the boat, he said to his brother, "I know you have an intention to murder me, and if you are ready to do it, let me beg that it be done here, without giving yourself the trouble to take me on board:" to which the captain said, "No, brother, I am going to prevent your rotting on land; but, however, I would have you make your peace with God this night."

Sir John being put on board, appealed to the seamen for help: but the captain put a stop to any efforts they might have made to assist him, by saying he was a lunatic, and brought on board to prevent his committing an act of suicide.

White and Mahony now conveyed him to the purser's cabin, which the captain guarded with a drawn sword, while the other villains attempted to strangle him, with a handkerchief which they found in his pocket, the wretched victim crying out "murder!" and beseeching them not to kill him, and offering all he possessed as a compensation for his life.

As they could not strangle him with the handkerchief, the captain gave them a cord; with which Mahony dispatched him, while White held his hands, and trod on his stomach. The captain now retired to his cabin; and the murder being committed, the perpetrators of it went to him, and told him "the job was done;" on which he  
gave

gave them money, and bade them seek their safety in flight.

The attorney with whom the brothers had dined, having heard of the commission of a murder, and knowing of the former animosity of the captain to his brother, immediately conjectured who it was that had fallen a sacrifice; on which he went to the mayor of Bristol, who issued his warrant to the water-bailiff, who going on board, found that the lieutenant and cooper had prudently confined the captain to his cabin.

The offender being brought on shore, was committed to Newgate, and Mahony and White being taken in a few hours afterwards, were lodged in the same prison.

At the sessions held at Bristol on the 26th of March, 1741, these offenders were brought to trial; and being convicted on the fullest evidence, received sentence of death.

After conviction Mahony behaved in the most hardened manner imaginable; and when the goalers were putting irons on him, he said he should not regard dying on the following day, if he could be attended by a priest to whom he might confess his sins. This man and White were both Irishmen and Roman Catholics.

Captain Goodere's time, after conviction, was spent chiefly in writing letters to persons of rank, to make interest to save his life; and his wife and daughter presented a petition to the king: but all endeavours of this kind proving ineffectual, he employed a man to hire some colliers to rescue him on his way to the fatal tree: but this circumstance transpiring, the sheriff took care to have a proper guard to carry the law into effectual execution.

Captain Goodere's wife and daughter, dressed in deep mourning, took a solemn leave of him on the day before his death. He went in a mourning coach to the place of execution, to which his accomplices were conveyed in a cart.

They were hanged near the Hot Wells, Bristol, on the 20th of April, 1741, within view of the place where the ship lay when the murder was committed.

It is not in the power of language to express the enormity of the crime for which these malefactors suffered. A murder so unprovoked has taken place but in very few instances; and we hope it will never happen again. With regard to the seamen, there is no doubt but that they were tempted by the offer of money to the commission of the horrid deed: for base as the human heart has been known in some instances, it cannot be supposed that any man would commit a deliberate murder on a stranger, without being solicited or tempted to the fact.

Captain Goodere's conduct seems to have arisen from the unjustifiable sin of barbarity founded on covetousness: for when he found that his brother had assumed to himself the right of disposing of his own fortune, he determined on the most bloody and cruel revenge.

From this sad tale then, let us learn to guard our hearts against that impulse which tempts us to wish for the illegal possession of our neighbours goods. Let us learn that a morsel of bread honestly procured, and eaten in peace, will afford us more real satisfaction than the riches of the Indies obtained by a violation of the laws of God and humanity!

Circumstantial



Circumstantial Account of JAMES HALL, who was hanged in the *Strand* for the *Murder* of his *Master*.

THIS malefactor, according to the account given by himself, was descended of honest parents, of Wells in Hampshire, who gave him such an education as might qualify him for any ordinary rank of life.

Being unwilling to remain in the country, he came to London, and lived some time with a corn-chandler; and after a continuation in this service, he married, and had several children; but not living happily with his wife, articles of separation were executed between them. After this he married another woman, by whom he had one child, and who visited him after his being in custody for the murder.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in August 1741, he was indicted for the murder of John Penny, gentleman, and pleading guilty, received sentence of death.

Mr. Penny had chambers in Clements Inn; and Hall had lived with him seven years before he committed the murder; nor had he formed any design of being guilty of the horrid deed till within about a month of its perpetration; but having kept more company than his circumstances could afford, he had involved himself in difficulties, which made him resolve to murder and rob his master.

On the 7th of June, 1741, he intoxicated himself with liquor, and then determined to carry his design into execution. Mr. Penny coming home between eleven and twelve at night, Hall assisted

in undressing him in the dining-room; and while he was walking towards the bed, the villain followed him with a stick which he had concealed for the purpose, and struck him one blow with such force that he never spoke afterwards; and continued his blows on the head till he was apparently dead.

Willing, however, to be certain of compleating the horrid tragedy, and to avoid detection, he went into the dining-room, and stripping himself naked, he took a small fruit knife belonging to his master, and returning to the chamber, cut his throat with it, holding his neck over the chamber-pot. Mr. Penny bled very freely; for when the blood was mixed with a small quantity of water, it almost filled the pot five times; and three of the pots thus mixed the murderer threw into the sink, and two in the coal-hole. He then took his master's waistcoat, which was lined with duffil, and bound it round his neck, to suck up the remainder of the blood.

This being done, he took the body on his shoulders, carried it to the necessary, and threw it in head foremost; and flying back immediately to the chambers, under the most dreadful apprehensions of mind, he took his master's coat, bloody shirt, the stick that he had knocked him down with, and some rags that he had used in wiping up the blood, and running a second time naked to the necessary-house, threw them in at a hole on the opposite side of it.

The body being thus disposed of, he stole about thirty-six guineas from his master's pocket, and writing-desk; and such was the confusion of his mind, that he likewise took some franks, sealing-wax, and other articles for which he had no use; and then he employed the remainder of the night  
in

in washing and rubbing the rooms with cloths; but finding it no easy matter to get out the blood, he sent for the laundress in the morning to wash them again, telling her that his master's nose had bled over night.

On the following day the guilty wretch strolled from place to place, unable to find rest for a moment any where; and all his thoughts being engaged in concealing the murder, which he hoped was effectually done, from the place in which he had secreted the body.

On the Friday following he went to Mr. Wooton, his master's nephew, on a pretence of enquiring for Mr. Penny, who he said had quitted the chambers two days before, and gone somewhere by water; so that he was afraid some accident had happened to him.

Mr. Wooton was so particular in his enquiries after his uncle, that Hall was exceedingly terrified at his questions, and knew not what answer to make to them. After this the criminal went twice every day to Mr. Wooton, to enquire after his master, for ten days; but lived all the while in a torment of mind that is not to be described.

So wretched was he, that finding it impossible to sleep in the chambers, he got his wife to come and be with him: and they lay in Mr. Penny's bed; but still sleep was a stranger to him.

At length Mr. Wooton had Hall taken into custody, on a violent suspicion that he had murdered his uncle. On his first examination before a magistrate, he steadily avowed his innocence: but being committed to Newgate he attempted an escape: this, however, was prevented; and a few days afterwards he confessed his guilt before some relations of the deceased.

We have already mentioned that he pleaded guilty on his trial; and have now to add that, after sentence was passed on him, he was exceedingly contrite and penitent, and confessed his guilt in letters to his friends.

On the day before his death he received the sacrament, with all apparent signs of that penitence which was necessary to prepare him for the dreadful scene that lay before him.

He was hanged at the end of Catherine Street in the Strand, on the 15th of September, 1741, and his body afterwards hung in chains at Shepherd's Bush, three miles beyond Tyburn Turnpike, on the road to Acton.

The following is a letter which this malefactor wrote to his wife, the night preceding his execution.

“ My Dear,      Twelve o'clock Sunday night.

**I** Am very sorry we could not have the liberty of a little time by ourselves, when you came to take your leave of me; if we had, I should have thought of many more things to have said to you than I did; but then I fear it would have caused more grief at our parting. I am greatly concerned that I am obliged to leave you and my child, and much more in such a manner, as to give the world room to reflect upon you on my account; though none but the ignorant will, but rather pity your misfortunes, as being fully satisfied of your innocency in all respects relating to the crime for which I am in a few hours to suffer.

I now heartily wish, not only for my own sake, but the injured persons, yours, and my child's, that I was as innocent as you are, but freely own I am not, nor possibly can be in this world; yet I  
humbly



humbly hope, and fully trust, through God's great mercy, and the merits of my blessed Saviour Jesus Christ, to be happy in the next.

After I parted with you, I received the holy sacrament comfortably, which Mr. Broughton was so good as to administer to me, who has also several times before taken a great deal of pains to instruct me, and so has some others of his acquaintance, by whose assistance, and my own endeavours, I hope God will pardon all my sins for Christ's sake, and admit me into his heavenly kingdom.

My dear, some of my latest prayers will be to God to direct and prosper you and my child in all good ways, so long as he pleases to let you live here on earth; that afterwards he may receive you both to his mercies to all eternity. I hope I shall willingly submit to my fate, and die in peace with all men. This is now all the comfort I can give you in this world, who living was, and dying hope to remain,

Your loving and most affectionate husband,

JAMES HALL."

To all we have said on the subject of murder, little need be added on this occasion. Those who fail to be struck by a recital of this horrid tale, must have less humanity than we hope falls to the share of any of our readers.

Instead, therefore, of making any remarks on this particular case, we will suppose it to be a sufficient comment on itself; and conclude with a prayer that we may all be delivered even from the temptation of spilling innocent blood!

Account of the numerous Adventures of HENRY COOK, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for a *High-way Robbery*.

**T**HIS offender was the son of creditable parents in Houndsditch, who having given him a decent education, he was apprenticed to a leather-cutter, with whom he served his time, and then his father took the shop of a shoemaker at Stratford in Essex, in which he placed his son.

Having some knowledge of the shoe-making business, he was soon well established, and married a young woman at Stratford, by whom he had three children before he commenced highwayman.

However, it was not long after his marriage before the associating with bad company, and the neglect of his business, involved him so far in debt, that he was obliged to quit his house in apprehension of the bailiffs.

He was afterwards obliged wholly to decline business; and having taken up goods in the name of his father, he was ashamed to make application to him for relief in his distress.

Among the idle acquaintance that Cook had made at Stratford, was an apothecary named Young, who was concerned with him in robbing gardens and fish-ponds, and in stealing poultry. The persons robbed offered a reward for apprehending the offenders; and Cook having been known to sell fowls at Leadenhall-Market, a warrant was granted to take him into custody: but having notice of it, he concealed himself two months at the house of a relation at Grays in Essex.

During

During this retreat it was determined not to execute the warrant; but Cook learning that a bailiff at Stratford had vowed to arrest him if he could be found, he sent the officer a letter, advising him to consult his own safety, for he would blow his brains out if he should meet him.

This threat effectually intimidated the bailiff: and Cook having dissipated all his cash, went to Stratford, where he found a man so intimate with his wife, that he became enraged in the highest degree, and taking several articles of furniture with him, he went to London and sold them.

This being done, he went to the house of a relation in Shoreditch, where he was treated with civility while his money lasted; but when that was nearly gone there was no farther appearance of friendship: and being now driven to extremity, he went to Moorfields, where he purchased a pair of pistols, and having procured powder and ball, went towards Newington, in his way to which he robbed a man of fifteen shillings, and returned to London.

Thus embarked in the high road to destruction, he determined to continue his dangerous trade; and on the following day went to Finchley-Common, where he stopped a gentleman, the bridle of whose horse he seized, and ordered him to dismount on pain of death. The rider complying, was robbed both of his money and horse; but he offered the highwayman three guineas if he would send the horse to an inn at St. Albans, which he promised to do; but afterwards finding that he had a valuable acquisition in the beast, he failed to restore him.

This robbery being committed, he crossed the country to Endfield-Chace, and going to a public-house

house where he was known, said that he wished to hide himself lest he should be arrested.

Having continued here two days, he proceeded to Tottenham, where he robbed a gentleman of about six pounds, and leaving his horse at an inn in Bishopsgate-Street, he went to his kinsman's in Shoreditch, where he was interrogated respecting his possessing so much money: but he would give no satisfactory answer.

On the following day he went on the St. Alban's Road, and having robbed a stage-coach of eight pounds, he went to Endfield-Chace, to the house he had frequented before; but while he was there he read an advertisement in which his horse was so exactly described, that he determined to abscond: on which he went to Hadley-Common near Barnet, where he robbed a gentleman, and taking his horse, gave the gentleman his own.

Soon after this he went to an inn at Mims, where he saw a gentleman whom he had formerly robbed, and was so terrified by the sight of the injured party that he ran to the stable, took his horse, and galloped off with the utmost expedition.

On the road between Mims and Barnet he was met by eight men on horseback, one of whom challenged the horse he rode, saying that a highwayman had stolen it from a gentleman of his acquaintance.

Our adventurer replied that he had bought the horse at the Bell at Edmonton, of which he could give convincing proofs; on which the whole company determined to attend him to that place: but when he came near Edmonton, he galloped up a lane, where he was followed by all the other parties; and finding himself in danger of being  
 appre-



apprehended, he faced his pursuers, and presenting a pistol, swore he would fire, unless they retreated: but some countrymen coming up at this juncture. he must have been made prisoner, only that night advancing he quitted his horse, and took shelter in a wood.

When he thought he might safely leave his lurking place, he hastened to London, and going to the house of his relation in Shoreditch, he was challenged with having committed robberies on the highway: but nothing could be learnt from the answers he gave.

Having dissipated his present money, he went again to Finchley-Common; but his late narrow escape made such an impression on his mind, that he suffered several persons to pass unattacked, but at length robbed an old man of his horse and five pounds, though not till after it was dark.

Soon after the commission of this robbery he met a gentleman, whom he obliged to change horses with him; but, in a few minutes afterwards, the gentleman was stopped by the owner of the stolen horse, who said a highwayman had just robbed him of it. Enraged at this, the gentleman swore the place was infested with thieves; however he delivered the horse, and walked to London.

Cook riding to his old place of resort near the chace, remained there three days; but seeing the horse he had last stolen advertised, he rode off, in fear of discovery: but had not proceeded far, before he was seized by the owner of the horse, and three other persons, who conducted him to Newgate.

At the next Old Bailey sessions he was indicted for stealing this horse; but acquitted, because the owner would not swear to his person.

Soon after his discharge, he returned to his former practices, but his affairs with his creditors having been by this time adjusted by his friends, he lived at Stratford with his wife, and committed his depredations chiefly on Epping-Forest.

Having acquired a booty of thirty pounds, he shewed it to a journeyman he kept, named Taylor, and asked him how he might employ it to the best advantage in buying leather: but Taylor, guessing how it had been obtained, offered to go partners with his master in committing robberies on the highway; and the contract was instantly made.

They now stopped a great number of coaches on the borders of the Forest; but acted with such an uncommon degree of caution, that they were for a long time unsuspected; but the neighbours being terrified by such repeated outrages on the public peace, a captain Mawley took a place in the basket of the Colchester coach to make discoveries: and Cook and Taylor coming up to demand the money of the passengers, Taylor was shot through the head; on which Cook ran to the captain, and robbed him of his money, on threats of instant death.

The carriage driving on, Cook began to search his deceased companion for his money; but some of the neighbours coming up, he retired behind a hedge to listen to their conversation; and having found that some of them knew the deceased, and intimated that he had been accompanied by Cook, he crossed the fields to London.

Having spent three days in riot and dissipation, he went to his relation in Shoreditch, whom he requested to go to Stratford, to enquire the situation of affairs there. When his relation returned,

ed, he told him there were several warrants issued against him, and advised him to go to sea.

This he promised to do: but instead thereof, he bought a horse, and rode to Brentwood in Essex, where he heard little conversation but of Cook, the famous highwayman of Stratford: and on the next day he followed a coach from the inn where he had put up, and took about thirty pounds from the passengers.

Cook now connected himself with a gang of desperate highwaymen in London, in conjunction with whom he stopped a coach near Bow, in which were some young gentlemen from a boarding-school. A Mr. Cruikshanks riding up at this instant, one of the gang demanded his money; but as he hesitated to deliver it, another of them knocked him down and killed him on the spot; after which the robbers went to a public-house near Hackney-marsh, and divided the spoils of the evening.

Cook continued but a short time with this gang; but going to a house at Newington Green, sent for a woman with whom he had cohabited; who threatened to have him apprehended, unless he would give her some money; and though he had but little in his possession, he gave her a guinea, and promised her a farther sum, lest she should carry her threats into execution.

Oppressed in mind by contemplations on his crimes, and particularly by reflecting on the murder of Mr. Cruikshanks, he went to St. Albans, where he assumed a new name, and worked as a journeyman shoemaker for about three weeks; when a highwayman being pursued through the town, the terrors of his conscience on the occasion were such, that he hastily left the



shop, and ran across the country, towards Woburn in Bedfordshire.

In his way to Woburn he robbed a farmer of fifty pounds and his horse and bad him sue the county. The former soon raised the hue and cry ; but Cook escaped for the present, and riding as far as Birmingham, took lodgings at a public-house, and disposed of his horse.

Cook had now taken on him the name of Stevens; and the landlord of the house where he lodged telling him that there was a shop to lett, he took it, and entered into business as a shoemaker. He now hired one Mrs. Barrett as his house-keeper ; but she soon became his more intimate companion ; and accompanying him to horse-races, and other places of public diversion, his little money was soon dissipated.

Thus situated, he told his house-keeper that he had an aunt in Herefordshire, who allowed him a hundred per annum, which he received in quarterly payments ; and that he would go to her for his money. Under this pretence he left her, and went to Northampton, and from thence to Dunstable, near which place he robbed a farmer of his horse, and sixteen pounds, and then rode to Daventry.

At this last place he met with a Manchester dealer, going home from London ; and having spent the evening together, they travelled in company next day, and dined at Coventry. Cook having an intention of robbing his fellow-traveller, intimated that it would be proper to conceal their money, as they had a dangerous road to travel ; and putting his own money in his boot, the other put a purse of gold into his side-pocket.



Prosecuting their journey till they came to a cross-road, Cook demanded his companion's money, on pain of immediate death: and having robbed him of thirty-five guineas, he travelled immediately to Birmingham; and Mrs. Barrett imagined he had been supplied by his aunt, agreeable to the story he had told her.

He now carried on trade as usual; but as often as he was distressed for cash, he used to have recourse to the road, and recruited his pockets by robbing the stages.

At length a London trader coming to Birmingham, asked Cook how long he had lived there; which terrified him so that he quitted the place, and travelled towards London, and near Highgate robbed a gentleman, named Zachary, of his horse and money.

On this stolen horse he rode to Epping-Forest on the following day; and having robbed a gentleman, returned to London by the way of Stratford, at which place he spoke to a number of his old acquaintance; but was not imprudent enough to quit his horse.

Going to a house he had frequented at Newington-Green, he sent for his relation who lived near Shoreditch, who advised him to make his escape, or he would certainly be taken into custody. On this he went to Mims; and his relation visiting him, Cook begged he would sell five watches for him: but the other declined it recommending him to dispose of them himself in London.

On the following evening, when it was almost dark he rode towards town, and observing a chaise behind him, permitted it to pass and followed it to the descent of the hill towards Holloway. There were two gentlemen in the chaise,  
whose

whose money Cook demanded: but, instead of complying, they drove on the faster; on which he fired, and wounded one of them in the arm: but the report of the pistol bringing some people towards the spot, he galloped off, and went to Mims, his old place of retreat.

Coming to London next day, to sell his watches, he was seen in Cheapside by a woman who knew him, and followed him to Norton-Falgate, where observing him go into a public-house, she went and procured a constable, who took him into custody, and found on him five watches, and about nine pounds in money.

On his examination before a magistrate, Mr. Zachary, whom he had robbed near Highgate, swearing to the identity of his person, he was committed to Newgate: but not before he had offered to become evidence against some accomplices he pretended to have had: but this offer was rejected.

He now formed a scheme to murder the keepers, and to make his escape: but being detected, he was confined to the cells; and being brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, was capitally convicted.

After sentence of death he for some time affected a gaiety of behaviour; but when the warrant for his execution arrived, he was so struck with the idea of his approaching fate, that it occasioned convulsive fits, and he never afterwards recovered his health.

This malefactor was hanged at Tyburn, on the 16th of December, 1741.

In the case of this offender we have a striking instance of the terrors of a guilty conscience. The sight of a gentleman at Mims, whom he had formerly robbed, compelled him to fly when no

one pursued. His changing his name, once at St. Albans, and again at Birmingham, shews the perpetual anxiety in which thieves live, in dread of the discovery of their evil actions; and the whole course of his adventures, though in pecuniary acquirements he was more fortunate than highwaymen generally are, serves only to prove that those who depart from the plain path of equity, do but entangle themselves in a perpetual labyrinth of care and anxiety. The honest man, however low his fortunes, must enjoy more peace of mind in a single hour, than the villain can do in the whole course of his life.

Destruction naturally follows vice. The wages of sin are death; but the righteous man shall be honoured, and his name held in everlasting remembrance!



The singular Exploits of ROBERT RAMSEY,  
who was executed at Tyburn for *House Breaking*.

THIS offender was born of respectable parents near Grosvenor-square, and apprenticed to an apothecary, after being liberally educated at Westminster school. His master's circumstances becoming embarrassed, Ramsey left him, and went into the service of another gentleman of the same profession.

He now became a professed gamester. The billiards and hazard-tables engrossed his time; and his skill being great, he often stripped his companions; yet the money he thus obtained, he dissipated in the most extravagant manner.

Having



Having made an acquaintance with one Carr, they singled out a clergyman who frequented the coffee-house they used, as a proper object to impose upon; and having ingratiated themselves into his good opinion, Ramsey took the opportunity of Carr's absence to tell the clergyman that he had a secret of the utmost consequence to impart: and the clergyman having promised secrecy, the other said that Carr was in love with a young widow, who was very rich, and inclined to marry him; but that the match was opposed by her relations.

He added that the lady herself was averse to being married at the Fleet, even if she could escape the vigilance of her relations so far as to reach that place. The clergyman listening to the story, Ramsey offered him twenty guineas to marry the young couple; and it was agreed that the parties should meet at a tavern near the Royal Exchange on the following day.

Ramsey, having told Carr what had passed, went to the clergyman the next morning; and observing that if the lady took her own footman he might be known, said he would disguise himself in livery, and attend the priest.

This being done, a hackney-coach was called for the clergyman, and Ramsey getting up behind it, they drove to the tavern, where rich wines were called for, of which Ramsey urged the clergyman to drink so freely that he fell asleep, when Ramsey picked his pocket of his keys.

The gentleman awaking, enquired for the couple that were to be married: on which Ramsey calling for more wine, said he would go in search of them: but immediately calling a coach, he went to the clergyman's lodgings, and producing  
the



the keys, said he had been sent by the gentleman for some papers in his cabinet.

The landlady of the house, seeing the keys, permitted him to search for what he wanted: on which he stole a diamond ring of the value of forty pounds, and about a hundred pounds in money, and carried off some papers.

This being done, he returned to the clergyman, said that the young couple would attend in a short time, and desired him to order a genteel dinner: but this last injunction was unnecessary; for the parson had taken previous care of it; and while he was at dinner, Ramsey said he would go and order a diamond, and a plain gold ring, and would return immediately.

He had not been long absent when a jeweller brought the rings, which he said were for a baronet and his lady who were coming to be married. The clergyman asked him to drink the healths of the young couple; and just at this juncture Ramsey came in and told the jeweller that he was instantly wanted at home; but that he must return without loss of time, as his master's arrival was immediately expected.

The jeweller was no sooner gone than Ramsey taking up the diamond ring, said that he had brought a wrong one, and he would go back and rectify the mistake. In the interim the jeweller finding that he had not been wanted at home, began to suspect that some undue artifice had been used; on which he hurried to the tavern, and thought himself happy to find that the parson had not decamped.

Having privately directed the waiter to procure a constable, he charged the clergyman with defrauding him of the rings. The other was aston-

ished at such a charge; but the jeweller insisted on taking him before a magistrate; where he related a tale that, some days before, those rings had been ordered by a man whom he supposed to be an accomplice of the person now charged: but the clergyman being a man of fair character, sent for some reputable people to bail him; while the jeweller returned home, cursing his ill fortune for the trick that had been put on him.

London being an unsafe place for Ramsey longer to reside in, he went to Chester, where he assumed the character of an Irish gentleman, who had been to study physic in Holland, and was now going back to his native country. During his residence at Chester he insinuated that he was in possession of a specific cure for the gout; and the landlord of the inn he put up at being ill of that disorder, took the medicine; and his fit leaving him in a few days, he ascribed the cure to the supposed nostrum.

Ramsey having gone by the name of Johnson in this city, now dressed himself as a physician, and having printed and dispersed hand-bills, giving an account of many patients whose disorders had yielded to his skill; and promising to cure the poor without expence, no person doubted either the character or abilities of Dr. Johnson.

A young lady who was troubled with an asthma became one of his patients; and Ramsey presuming that she possessed a good fortune, insinuated himself so far into her good graces that she would have married him; but that her uncle, in whose hands her money was, happened to come to Chester at that juncture.

The young lady acquainted the uncle with the proposed marriage; on which the old gentleman observed that it would be imprudent to marry a  
man

man with whose circumstances and character she was wholly unacquainted; on which she consented that the necessary enquiries should be made; but to this her consent was reluctantly obtained, as she was entirely devoted to her lover.

Hereupon Ramsey put into the uncle's hands copies of several letters which he said he had written to some people of distinction, who would answer for his character. By this finesse he hoped to get time to prevail on the lady to marry him privately, which, indeed, she would readily have done, but through fear of offending her uncle.

During this situation of affairs, while Ramsey was walking without the city, he happened to see the clergyman above-mentioned, whom he had so much injured in London; on which he hastily retired to a public-house in Chester, and sent a person to Park-Gate, to enquire when any ship would sail for Ireland: and the answer brought was, that a vessel would sail that very night.

On receiving this intelligence Ramsey went and drank tea with the young lady; and taking the opportunity of her absence from the room, he opened a drawer, whence he took a diamond ring, and fifty guineas, out of eighty which were in a bag.

Some little time afterwards he asked the lady to spend the evening at his lodgings, and play a game at cards; and having obtained her consent, they spent some time with apparent satisfaction: but Ramsey going down stairs, returned in great haste, and said that her uncle was below. As she appeared frightened by this circumstance, he locked her in the room, first giving her a book to read, and said that if her uncle should desire to come up, he would pretend to have lost the key of the door.

The intent of this plan was to effect his escape while she was confined; and having got on board the ship the same evening, he sent her a letter, of which the following is a copy:

“ Dear Madam,

**I** Doubt not but you will be extremely surpris'd at the sudden disappearance of your lover; but when you begin to consider what a dreadful precipice you have escap'd, you will bless your stars. By the time this comes to hand, I shall be pretty near London, and as for the trifle I borrowed of you, I hope you will excuse it, as you know I might have taken the whole, if I would; but you see there is still some conscience among us doctors.

The ring I intend to keep for your sake, unless the hazard-table disappoints me, and if ever fortune puts it in my power, I will make you a suitable return; but till then, take this advice, Never let a strange doctor possess your affections any more.

I had almost forgot to ask pardon for making you my prisoner; but I doubt not but old Starch-face, your uncle, would detain me a little longer, if he could find me. Adieu!

R. JOHNSON.

This letter he committed to the care of a person who was to go to Chester in a few days; and in the interim Ramsey reached Dublin, where having dissipated his money in extravagance, he embarked in a ship bound to Bristol, whence he travelled to London.

On his arrival in the metropolis, he found his younger brother, who had likewise supported himself



self by acts of dishonesty; and the two brothers agreed to act in concert.

They now committed a variety of robberies in conjunction, confining their depredations chiefly to the stealing of plate; but as there was nothing extraordinary in their mode of committing these robberies, we proceed to the narrative of that for which Ramsey suffered the utmost rigour of the law.

Having taken a previous survey of Mr. Glyn's house at the corner of Hatton-Garden, the brothers broke into it in the night, and carried off a quantity of plate; but hand-bills being immediately circulated, they were taken into custody while offering the plate for sale to a Jew in Duke's Place. The lord mayor, on examining the prisoners, admitted the younger brother an evidence against the elder.

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey it was an affecting scene to behold the one brother giving evidence against the other, who was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death.

After conviction Ramsey seemed to entertain a proper idea of the enormity of the offences of which he had been guilty; and in several letters to persons whom he had robbed, he confessed his crimes, and entreated their prayers. He did not flatter himself with the least hope of pardon; sensible that his numerous offences must necessarily preclude him from such favour.

A letter which he wrote to a friend at Bristol contains the following pathetic expressions:—  
 “ O blame me not: I am now by the just judgment of God and man under sentence of death.  
 “ Whatever injuries I have committed, with tears  
 “ in my poor eyes, I ask forgiveness. Oh! my  
 “ friend, could you but guess or think what agonies  
 “ nics

“ nics I feel, I am sure you would pity me: may  
 “ my Father which is in heaven pity me like-  
 “ wife!”

At the place of execution Ramsey made an affecting address to the surrounding multitude; entreating the younger part of the audience to avoid gaming, as what would infallibly lead to destruction.

After the customary devotions on such melancholy occasions, he was turned off, and the body having hung the usual time, was conveyed in a hearse to Giltspur-street, whence it was taken and decently interred by his friends, at the expiration of two days from the time of his execution.

Ramsey was executed at Tyburn on the 13th of January 1742.

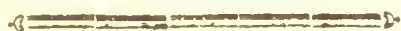
In the case of the abovementioned malefactor we learn that superior skill in tricks and contrivances is but a readier way to death and destruction. Gaming ought to be avoided by young people, as steadily as they would avoid walking blindfold to the edge of a precipice. Nothing leads so certainly to ruin. The gamester must, at the best, live a life of perpetual anxiety: and, if he thinks at all, can consider himself only as a beast of prey, who is to be supported by the destruction of his fellow-creatures.

The circumstance of Ramsey's brother giving evidence against him is shocking to humanity, at the same time that it shews the wisdom of those laws which have permitted the evidence of accomplices as necessary to convict the principal offender.

Upon the whole, by the fate of this man we may be taught, that neither the most refined arts of cunning, nor the strongest ties of consanguinity, are sufficient to evade the force of the laws

of our country: those laws framed equally for the protection of every subject; which pay no regard to rank, and which are favourable only to innocence!

It is the observation of a great legal ornament of our kingdom, that “no innocent man need fear the law:”—and to this, surely, it may with propriety be added, that “there is no guilty one but ought to dread it.”



Account of MARTIN NOWLAND, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for enlisting Men into the French Service.\*

THE kingdom of Ireland gave birth to this offender, who, while a youth, was decoyed from his parents, conveyed to Dunkirk, and entered into the regiment of Dillon. In this station he continued fourteen years, at the end of which time he was sent to London, to enlist men into the French service; and was promised a commission on his return, as a reward for the diligence he might exert.

On his arrival in London he endeavoured to connect himself with people of the lower ranks, whom he thought most likely to be seduced by his artifices: and one day going on the quays near London-bridge, he met with two brothers named Meredith, both of them in the army, but who occasionally worked on the quays, to make an addition to their military pay.

Hav-

---

\* This offence was rendered capital by an act made in the 9th year of the reign of King George the second.

Having invited these men to a house in the Borough, he treated them with liquor, represented the emoluments that would arise from their entering into the French service; and, among other things, said that, exclusive of their pay, they would receive four loaves of bread weekly.

When they were thus refreshed, Nowland prevailed on them to go to his lodgings in Kent-street, where he farther regaled them, and then said he hoped they would enter into the service. They expressed their readiness to do so; and said they could aid him in enlisting several other men, if he would spend the evening with them at a public-house in the Strand.

This proposal being assented to, they took him to a famous alehouse near the Savoy, called the Coal-hole, where Nowland was terrified at the sight of several soldiers of the guards: but the Merediths saying they were their intimate acquaintance, the parties adjourned to a room by themselves. Here the brothers asked Nowland how much they were to receive for enlisting, which he told them would be four guineas; and that he was commissioned to pay their expences till they should join the regiment.

The intention of the brothers seems to have been to obtain some money of Nowland; but finding it was not in his power to advance any while they remained in England, one of them went to the serjeant at the Savoy, informed him of what had passed, and asked him how he must dispose of Nowland. The serjeant said he must be detained for the night, and taken before a magistrate on the following day.

On his return to the public-house, Nowland produced a certificate signed by the lieutenant colonel of the regiment, as a proof that he was  
actually



actually in the service of France. He likewise said that the soldiers must dispose of their cloaths, and purchase others, to prevent their being detected at Dover; and he repeated his promise of the bounty-money, and other accommodations proper for a soldier, on their reaching the regiment.

When the Merediths, and the other soldiers, had drank at Nowland's expence till they were satisfied, they conveyed him to the round-house; and, on the following day, took him before a magistrate, to whom, after some hesitation, he acknowledged that he had been employed to enlist men for the Irish brigades in the service of France.

Enquiry being made respecting his accomplices, he acknowledged that a captain belonging to his regiment was in London, and that some other agents were soon expected in the kingdom: on which he was informed that he should be admitted an evidence if he would impeach his accomplices. He replied, that "he was a man of honour, and would never be guilty of hanging any other person to save his own life."

He was committed to Newgate in consequence of this confession, and being brought to his trial, he was convicted at the following sessions at the Old Bailey, and received sentence of death.

Nowland being of the Roman Catholic persuasion, it is not possible to give a particular account of his behaviour after conviction; as he declined holding any correspondence with the ordinary of Newgate. When he came to the fatal tree, he performed his devotions in his own way, and being executed, his body was carried to St. Giles's, and soon afterwards buried in St. Pancras churchyard, by some of his Roman Catholic friends.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 24th of February, 1742.

The offence which cost this man his life was so clearly a violation of his duty as a subject, that he could expect no other fate than what befel him. Though he was conveyed from Ireland while a youth, he could not be so ignorant as not to know that he was a subject of the king of Great-Britain; and consequently that he embarked in a scheme which was punishable with the utmost severity of the law. Nor could he scarcely hope to escape detection.

The men who engage in such dangerous enterprises, do not only sin with their eyes open, but are more liable to punishment than almost any other offenders whatever: for every honest man to whom they apply is likely to give an information against them, as enemies to their king, and traitors to their country.

It may not be amiss just to hint to our honest soldiers, that the pay in the French service is greatly inferior to that of Great-Britain; their accommodation worse, and their treatment more severe. So that an Englishman who should be tempted to enter into the service of our natural enemies, ought to reflect that he is not only binding himself to slavery, but violating all the laws of natural affection, while he is making himself much more wretched by the exchange.

We hope that these considerations will be sufficient to check, in some instances, so pernicious a practice, and that Britons remembering the free charter, to the possession of which they were born, will detest to be the slaves of slaves; and treat with contempt all those who would seduce them from their duty and loyalty.

Account of JOHN BODKIN, DOMINICK BODKIN, and JOHN HOGAN, who were Hanged at Tuam, in Ireland, for Murder.

THE account we have to give of these offenders must necessarily shock all those who are not dead to every tender emotion of the soul, to all the finer feelings of humanity.

Oliver Bodkin, Esq. was a gentleman who possessed a good estate near Tuam in Ireland. He had two sons by two wives, the elder son named John, to whom this narrative chiefly relates, was sent to Dublin, to study the law; and the younger, who was about seven years of age, remained at home with his parents.

The young student lived in a very dissipated manner at Dublin, and soon quitting his studies, came and resided near his father's place of abode. The father allowed him a certain annual sum for his support; but as he lived beyond his allowance, he demanded farther assistance, which the father refusing, he began to entertain sentiments of revenge, and included his mother-in-law in his proposed scheme of vengeance; as he imagined that she had induced his father not to encourage his extravagance. He was likewise informed that the father intended to leave his estate to the younger brother; which farther confirmed him in the diabolical plan which he had formed.

Having engaged his father's cousin, Dominick Bodkin, and his father's shepherd, John Hogan, to assist him in the intended murders, they went to the house of Mr. Bodkin, senior, whose family consisted of four men and three women servants, exclusive of Mrs. Bodkin and the younger son;

and a gentleman named Lynch was at that time on a visit to the family.

When the murderers came to the house they found the master, mistress, the child above-mentioned, and Mr. Lynch, at supper in the parlour. All these they immediately murdered; and then going to the kitchen, killed three servant-maids: and finding the men in different parts of the house, they likewise fell a sacrifice to their brutal, and unprovoked rage.

The murder of eleven persons being thus perpetrated, they quitted the fatal spot; and when some persons from Tuam came the next morning to speak with Mr. Bodkin on business, they found the house open, and beheld the murdered body of Mr. Lynch, near whom lay that of Mrs. Bodkin, hacked and mangled in a shocking manner; and at a small distance her husband, with his throat cut, and the child laying dead across his breast. The throats of the maid-servants in the kitchen were all cut; and the men-servants in another room were likewise found victims of the inhuman barbarity of the murderers, who had even been so wanton in their cruelties as to kill all the dogs and cats in the house.

The neighbours being alarmed by such a singular instance of barbarity, a suspicion fell on John Bodkin, who, being taken into custody, confessed all the tragical circumstances above-mentioned, and impeached his accomplices: on which the other offenders were taken into custody, and all of them committed to the goal of Tuam.

Being brought to a trial at the next assizes, they were capitally convicted, and sentenced to die.

After conviction, John Bodkin confessed that he had made frequent attempts to murder his mother—



ther-in-law ; and that he had murdered his cousin, who was heir at law to a capital estate.

Hogan acknowledged that he had destroyed two of the parties found in the parlour ; and was going to murder the boy, but had not resolution to do it, from the reflection that the child had been nursed by his wife ; on which he laid him down by his dead father ; but he was immediately murdered by Dominick Bodkin.

The above-mentioned Hogan was remarkably ignorant, and behaved in a fullen and reserved manner ; nor did either of the criminals behave in such a manner after sentence, as might have been expected from a proper sense of the atrociousness of their crimes. John and Dominick Bodkin were careless in their preparations for futurity, and seemed to despise that death that their crimes had so amply deserved.

The head of Hogan was placed over the market-house of Tuam, as a caution to people of his rank of life to beware of committing of such crimes as those for which he suffered : and the others were hung in chains near the place where the murders were perpetrated.

These offenders suffered at Tuam in Ireland, on the 26th of March, 1742.

Seldom shall we hear of murders so atrocious, so unprovoked, as those in contemplation ! A son, because his father will not indulge his extravagance, resolves on the murder of a parent who had behaved with real generosity to him ; and communicating his plan to two abandoned miscreants, they agree to act their parts in the horrid tragedy, without prospect, and, as far as we can judge, without hope of reward.

It is not for mortals to presume how far the mercy of the Almighty shall be extended : but those  
who

who feel themselves capable of committing such horrid crimes have no right to expect the interposition of God in their favour. The sin of murder is of the first magnitude, of the blackest die! The murder of an indulgent parent must be sufficiently shocking to every humane mind: but when we consider, as in the present instance, what a variety of unprovoked murders were added to the first, the mind is lost in astonishment at the baseness, the barbarity, the worse than savage degeneracy of those hearts that could perpetrate such horrid deeds!

Let it be the subject of our constant prayer to the great fountain of mercy and benevolence, that we may be preserved from the temptation of embruing our hands in the blood of our fellow-creatures; and that our whole lives may be actuated by the principles of justice, and guided by the laws of kindness!



Singular Case of JAMES ANNESLEY, Esquire,  
and JOSEPH REDDING, who were tried for  
*Murder, and acquitted.*

**M**R. ANNESLEY was the son of Arthur, late Lord Baron of Altham, of the kingdom of Ireland, by his wife Mary Sheffield (natural daughter of John Duke of Buckingham,) to whom he was publicly married, in the year 1706; contrary to the inclination of his mother, and all his relations, particularly Arthur, late Earl of Anglesea, who entertained an inveterate hatred to the duke; and for that reason did all in his power to set the marriage aside: but finding that impossible, he never would be reconciled  
to

to Lord Altham, who was presumptive heir to his estate.

After a cohabitation of something more than two years, a separation took place between Lord Altham and his lady; and his lordship having involved himself in debt by a life of dissipation, thought it prudent to retreat to Ireland, where he had a good estate: and, after some time, he and his lady were reconciled, through the influence of the Duke of Buckingham.

At the end of about a year from this reconciliation, Lady Altham was brought to bed of a son, whose singular life and adventures we are now to record. When the child was about two years of age, a second quarrel arose between his parents, and a second separation ensued; on which Lady Altham came to England, and lived in London, in the most retired manner, till the year 1729, when she paid the debt of nature.

In the interim Lord Altham lived at Dublin in the most extravagant manner, kept the worst company, and paid no regard to the education of his son, who would have been deprived even of the common necessities of life, but for the intervention of some farmers, who supplied him with sustenance. Occasionally, indeed, his father would send for him; but was generally so intoxicated when he saw him, that the child reaped no advantage from these visits; and was soon reduced to a state of absolute penury.

Lord Altham dying, in the year 1726, a sacrifice to his own irregularities, his brother, Captain Richard Annesley, formed a scheme of succeeding to the Anglesea estate, by secreting the right heir, and for this purpose he made use of many artifices to get the youth into his possession: but these failed for some time, as he was boarded  
and

and protected by a butcher named Purcel. The youth having acquainted Purcel that he was the son of Lord Altham, his story began to engage the public attention, and a counsellor at law took him into his protection, with an intention of obtaining for him a legal right to his hereditary possessions.

The youth had not been long in this station when he was found by the diligence of those who were employed to search for him, who forcibly dragged him on board a ship bound for Newcastle, on Delaware-River, in America, where he was generally kept to hard labour; but occasionally indulged with the liberty of diverting himself with fishing and fowling.

One day, on his return from shooting, he met two Irishmen, to whom he communicated the particulars of his birth and connections; and they happening to remember several circumstances relating to it, prevailed on the captain of a trading vessel to interest himself to procure his release from slavery.

This being effected, “ he hired himself as a  
“ common sailor in a trading vessel bound to Ja-  
“ maica; and there, being entered on board one  
“ of his majesty’s ships under the command of  
“ Admiral Vernon, openly declared his paren-  
“ tage and pretensions. This extraordinary claim  
“ made a great noise in the fleet,” and one of the  
midshipmen hearing of it, said “ he had been  
“ schoolfellow with Lord Altham’s son, and  
“ should know him again, if not greatly altered,  
“ as he still retained a perfect idea of his counte-  
“ nance.”

Hereupon it was proposed that the experiment should be tried; and the midshipman going “ on  
“ board the ship that he claimant was in, for that  
“ pur-



“ purpose,” all the sailors were assembled on deck, “ when the midshipman, casting his eyes around, immediately distinguished Mr. Annesley in the crowd ; and laying his hand on his shoulder, said ‘ This is the man ; ’ affirming at the same time, that while he continued at school with him, the claimant was reputed and respected as Lord Altham’s son and heir, and maintained in all respects suitable to the dignity of his rank. Nay he was, in like manner, recognized by several other persons in the fleet, who had known him in his infancy.”

“ These things being reported to the admiral, he generously ordered him to be supplied with necessaries, and treated like a gentleman ; and, in his next dispatches, transmitted an account of the affair to the duke of Newcastle, among the common transactions of the fleet.”

Mr. Annesley arriving in London towards the latter end of the year 1741, intelligence of this circumstance was immediately sent to Ireland, on which his uncle, who had heretofore treated him in so unworthy a manner, came to England, in order to carry on the scene of oppression which lay nearest his heart : but a gentleman named Mac Kercher, having taken Mr. Annesley under his protection, sent him to board at the house of a farmer, near Staines in Middlesex.

Mr. Annesley had not been long in this situation before an accident happened which greatly contributed to render his future life unhappy. Being passionately fond of sporting, he obtained leave of the gentlemen of Staines to permit him to shoot on their estates ; and as he was what is called a fair sportsman, and a professed enemy to poachers, he went into the fields with Joseph Red-

ding, who was game-keeper to Sir John Dolben, in search of such people as might be found offending against the game-laws. They did not meet with any poachers for game; but seeing Thomas Egglestone and his son fishing in a river belonging to the manor, they ran to the spot, in order to seize the net; when Egglestone opposing them, Mr. Annesley's gun went off accidentally and killed him on the spot.

The son having witnessed the death of his father, hastened to Staines, and informed the inhabitants of what had happened, several of whom went out in search of Annesley and Redding, whom they found at a farm-house in the neighbourhood. The supposed offenders being taken into custody, were sent to London and lodged in the new prison, and arraigned at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, in consequence of bills of indictment which had been found against them by the grand jury.

After the trial had been put off one day, at the request of the council for the prosecution, the court ordered it to be brought on. It is not in language to describe the unworthy part that the earl of Anglesea acted in this business. Exclusive of procuring an attorney to offer 500*l.* to young Egglestone to swear that Annesley pointed the gun at his father and pulled the trigger, he even appeared in person on the bench at the trial, in order to brow-beat the unfortunate prisoner. It is asserted that the earl spent above a thousand pounds in this prosecution.

In his defence Mr. Annesley informed the court that his education having been greatly neglected by those whose duty it was to have taken every possible care of it, such a defence as might suit his birth was not to be expected: but he said that

that “the gun went off by accident; and whatever might be the verdict of the jury, he should consider that unhappy accident as the greatest misfortune of his life.”

Redding urged in his defence, that it was his duty, as game-keeper, to seize all nets within the bounds of the manor.

The instructions given by the court to the jury were, that if they thought the gun went off accidentally, they should bring in a verdict of chance medley, but that Mr. Annesley would be deemed guilty of manslaughter, unless it appeared that he was engaged in a lawful act. With regard to Redding it was observed, that as he seized the net under the protection of the law, as game-keeper, it was but just that he should be protected by the law.

On Mr. Annesley's case four council argued several hours; and when the jury were possessed of all the requisite information, they went out of court, and having maturely deliberated on the affair, they returned with a verdict of “chance medley,” which of course acquitted both the prisoners.

This singular transaction took place in the month of May, 1742; but it may not be unentertaining to our readers to learn something of the future occurrences of Mr. Annesley's life.

Mr. Mac Kercher, the disinterested friend of Annesley, now determined to exert his utmost endeavours to obtain for him the estate which was his undoubted right; and with that view took him to Ireland, where Mr. Annesley granted a lease to a person named Campbell, that the affair might be determined in a legal way. Campbell taking possession of the estate of which he had thus obtained a lease, was driven from it by Lord

Anglesea; on which a writ of ejectment was brought against the earl.

The cause was tried by a special jury of gentlemen of property, before the barons of the Exchequer in Ireland. More than a hundred witnesses were examined respecting the legitimacy of Mr. Annesley's birth, and the trial lasted fifteen days. Two servants who had lived in Lord Altham's family swore that Annesley was the son of a servant-girl, who had been debauched by Lord Altham; and a popish priest swore that he baptized the child as a bastard: but to invalidate this last evidence, another priest swore that the former had received two hundred pounds as a gratuity for what he had sworn.

Mr. Annesley's being the son of Lady Altham was proved by the evidence of three women servants, who lived in the family at the time of his birth; and above ten persons who were present at his christening swore to several circumstances respecting his birth. Two ladies proved on oath the reconciliation of Lord and Lady Altham, who had resided at the house of one of the deponent's father's during several months; and from thence the lady went into the country to be delivered.

It was sworn, by a farmer, that the child had been placed with him by Lord Altham as his son and heir; and that the farmer had boarded him, though he had never been paid; which, indeed, he attributed to the extravagant manner in which his lordship lived.

The attorney who had been employed to tamper with the witnesses against Mr. Annesley on his trial at the Old Bailey, being brought to Ireland by Mr. Mac Kercher, a doubt arose whether an attorney should reveal his client's secrets, when, after a debate of a whole day among the council,



it was determined by the judges that the examination of the attorney ought to take place.

In consequence of this examination it appeared that several persons had been engaged to swear against Mr. Annesley at his trial in London; and at the singular trial in Dublin of which we are now speaking, the judges remarked that there was oath against oath: at length, however, the jury determined that Mr. Annesley was the real son of Lord and Lady Altham.

Notwithstanding this determination, the right heir could not take possession of his estate; for a writ of error was brought against the verdict, and writs of appeal were lodged in the houses of peers of England and Ireland, as the estates in question were situated partly in each kingdom.

Mr. Mac Kercher, having spent a considerable fortune in support of the claim of the injured party, was at length arrested for debt, and remained several years in prison; and, in the mean time, Mr. Annesley was married to the daughter of a farmer in whose house he had lodged, and lived afterwards in a most retired manner; being utterly disqualified, by his education and former way of life, from obtaining any decent support as a gentleman.

The Earl of Anglesea lived but a few years after the affair we have recorded; and left his estate so involved, that it is not probable that any person will be able to make out a legal claim to it.

Mr. Mac Kercher's situation now rendered him unable to minister to the necessities of Mr. Annesley, who occasionally obtained some small gratuities from the nobility, and died in the year 1761, after lingering out a life of perpetual anxiety, and fruitless expectation; but never took

a gun

a gun in his hand from the time of his unhappily killing the poor man.\*

Of all the extraordinary characters we have had occasion to make remarks on in the course of this work, that of Mr. Mac Kercher is the most singular, perhaps the most valuable. He took up the cause of an unfriended youth, of whom he knew nothing but from report, and supported him through a long, an arduous, and an intricate business: not, indeed, to the restitution of the sufferer, but to his own essential injury: for private information has assured us that Mr. Mac Kercher spent more than ten thousand pounds, in this pursuance of the rights of another.

Seldom shall we hear of so much disinterested benevolence as was displayed by this man; seldom hear of greater, and more undeserved injuries than were sustained by Mr. Annesley!

The natural conclusion of this story is, that the final adjustment of it must be left to that great day of account when all mists shall be cleared from our eyes, and we shall witness the wisdom and justice of that God who disposes all the events of this lower world, so as to contribute most essentially to answer the purposes of his eternal benevolence!

\* In the year 1766 the writer of this narrative was acquainted with the daughter of Mr. Annesley, who was at that time in hope of recovering the estate; but it is presumed that nothing has been done in it since; and that the right heirs will never come into possession.

Extraordinary Caſe of WILLIAM CHETWYND, who was convicted of *Manſlaughter*, in Stabbing his Schoolfellow.

THIS unfortunate young gentleman was placed at the academy of Mr. Clare in Soho-Square, and was about fifteen years of age at the time the miſfortune happened of which we are now to give an account; and at the ſame ſchool was a youth named Thomas Rickets, then in the 19th year of his age.

At the ſeſſions held at the Old Bailey in October, 1743, the above-named William Chetwynd was indicted for the murder of Thomas Rickets, and was likewiſe indicted on the ſtatute of ſtabbing.

The affair on which the above proſecution was founded is as follows.

Mr. Chetwynd being poſſeſſed of a piece of cake, Rickets aſked him for ſome of it, on which he gave him a ſmall piece; but reſuſing to give him a ſecond, which he deſired, he cut off a piece for himſelf, and laid it on a bureau, while he went to lock up the chief part of the cake for his own uſe.

In the interim Rickets took the cake which had been left on the bureau, and when Chetwynd returned and demanded it, he reſuſed to deliver it; on which a diſpute aroſe, and Chetwynd having ſtill in his hand the knife with which he had cut the cake, wounded the other in the left ſide of the belly.

Hannah Humphreys, a ſervant in the houſe, coming at that time into the room, Rickets ſaid that he was ſtabbed, and complained much of the pain that he felt from the wound: on which

Hum-

Humphreys said to Chetwynd, " You have done " very well;" to which the latter replied, " If " I have hurt him, I am very sorry for it."

The wounded youth being carried to bed, languished three days under the hands of the surgeons, and then expired. In the interim Chetwynd, terrified at what had happened, quitted the school; but as soon as he heard of the death of Rickets he went to a magistrate, to abide the equitable decision of a verdict of his countrymen; and he was brought to his trial at the time and place above-mentioned.

The council in behalf of the prisoner acknowledged the great candour of the gentlemen who were concerned for the prosecution, in their not endeavouring to aggravate the circumstances attending the offence. They confessed the truth of all that had been sworn by the witnesses; but insisted, in behalf of the accused party, that though his hand might have made an unhappy blow, his heart was innocent.

The following is the substance of their arguments on the case. They said that the fact could not amount to murder at common law, which Lord Coke defines to be " an unlawful killing " another man with malice aforethought," either expressed by the party, or implied by the law. They said that in this case there was not the least malice, as the young gentlemen were friends, not only at the time, but to the close of Rickets's life, when he declared that he forgave the other.

They said that it being proved that there was a friendship subsisting, it would be talking against the sense of mankind to say the law could imply any thing contrary to what was plainly proved. That deliberation, and cruelty of disposition make the essential difference between manslaughter



ter and murder; and they quoted ſeveral legal authorities in ſupport of this doctrine.

One of their arguments was urged in the following words: “ Shall the young boy at the  
“ bar who was doing a lawful act, be ſaid to be  
“ guilty of murder? He was reſcuing what was  
“ his own: the witneſſes have told you that after  
“ he had given Rickets a piece of cake, Rickets  
“ went to him for more; he denied to give it  
“ him: he had a right to keep his cake, and the  
“ other had no right to take it; and he had a  
“ right to retake it.

“ There are caſes in the books which make a  
“ difference between murder and man-ſlaughter.  
“ If a man takes up a bar of iron and throws it at  
“ another, it is murder; and the difference in  
“ the crime lies between a perſon’s taking it up,  
“ and having it in his hand: Chetwynd had the  
“ knife in his hand, and upon that a provoca-  
“ tion enſues, for he did not take the knife up;  
“ if he had, that would have ſhewn an intention  
“ to do miſchief. It may be doubted, whether  
“ or no when he had this knife in his hand for a  
“ lawful purpoſe, and in an inſtant ſtruck the  
“ other, whether he conſidered he had the knife  
“ in his hand; for if in his paſſion he intended  
“ to ſtrike with his hand, and ſtruck with the  
“ knife, not thinking it was in his hand, it is not  
“ a ſtriking with the knife.

“ That it was to be conſidered whether there  
“ was not evidence to except this caſe from the  
“ letter of the Statute 1 James I.

The other arguments of the council were to  
the following purpoſe:

“ At the beginning of the fray, Rickets had  
 “ a knife in his hand; and it was one continued  
 “ act. And another question is, whether there  
 “ was not a struggle; here was the cake taken,  
 “ and in endeavouring to get it again, this acci-  
 “ dent happens; at the first taking of the cake, it  
 “ is in evidence, that Chetwynd was not forced to  
 “ extend his arms, unless the other was coming  
 “ to take it from him, and then a struggle is a  
 “ blow.

“ This act of the 1 James I. was made for a  
 “ particular purpose: on the union of the two  
 “ kingdoms, there were national factions and  
 “ jealousies, when wicked persons, to conceal  
 “ the malice lurking in their hearts, would sud-  
 “ denly stab others, and screen themselves from  
 “ the law by having the act looked upon as the  
 “ result of an immediate quarrel. That this  
 “ statute has been always looked upon as a hard  
 “ law, and therefore always construed by all the  
 “ judges in favour of the prisoner. That when  
 “ the facts amount only to man-slaughter at com-  
 “ mon-law, it has been the custom of the court  
 “ to acquit upon this statute.

“ The council for the crown, in reply, sub-  
 “ mitted it to the court, whether (since the only  
 “ points insisted on by way of defence for the  
 “ prisoner, were questions at law, in which the  
 “ jury were to be guided by their opinion) the  
 “ facts proved and admitted did not clearly, in  
 “ the first place, amount to murder at common-  
 “ law; and in the second place, whether there  
 “ could be the least doubt in point of law,  
 “ but that this case was within the Statute of  
 “ 1 James I.

“ Upon the first it was admitted, that to con-  
 “ stitute murder there must be malice.

“ But

“ But it was argued, that malice was of two kinds, either expressed and in fact, or implied by law.

“ But when one person kills another without provocation it is murder, because the law presumes and implies malice from the act done. And therefore, whenever any person kills another it is murder, unless some sufficient provocation appear. But it is not every provocation that extenuates the killing of a man from murder into man-slaughter. A slight or trivial provocation is the same as none, and is not allowed in law to be any justification or excuse for the death of another. And therefore no words of reproach or infamy, whatever provoking circumstances they may be attended with; no affronting gestures, or deriding postures, however insolent or malicious, are allowed to be put in balance with the life of a man, and to extenuate the offence from murder to man-slaughter.

“ For the same reason, no sudden quarrel upon a sudden provocation, shall justify such an act of cruelty as one man's stabbing another, though it be done immediately in the heat of passion. As if two persons, playing at tables, fall out in their game, and the one upon a sudden kills the other with a dagger, this was held to be murder by Bromley, at Chester assizes.

“ In like manner, no trespass on lands or goods shall be allowed to be any excuse for one man's attacking another in such manner as apparently endangers his life, and could not be intended merely as a chastisement for his offence; because no violent acts beyond the pro-

“ portion of the provocation receive countenance  
 “ from the law.

“ And therefore if a man beats another for  
 “ trespassing upon his goods or lands, and does  
 “ not desist, he will be justified by law; because  
 “ what he does is only in defence of his proper-  
 “ ty, and no more than a chastisement to the  
 “ offender.

“ But (says the Lord Chief Justice Holt) if  
 “ one man be trespassing on another, breaking  
 “ his hedges or the like, and the owner, or his  
 “ servant, shall upon sight thereof, take up a  
 “ hedge stake, and knock him on the head, that  
 “ will be murder; because it is a violent act be-  
 “ yond the proportion of the provocation.

“ That applying the rules of law to the pre-  
 “ sent case, it was plain, that the violent act  
 “ done, bore no proportion to the provocation.  
 “ All the provocation given was taking up a  
 “ piece of cake, which is not such an offence,  
 “ as can justify the prisoner's attacking the per-  
 “ son who took it up, with an instrument, that  
 “ apparently endangered his life, or rather car-  
 “ ried certain death along with it.

“ On the second indictment it was said, that  
 “ the council for the prisoner had in effect con-  
 “ tended, that the statute 1 James I. should  
 “ never be allowed to comprehend any one case  
 “ whatsoever, or extend to any one offender,  
 “ which would entirely frustrate that statute;  
 “ since it was only made in order to exclude such  
 “ persons who stabbed others upon the sudden,  
 “ from the benefit of clergy; and was intended  
 “ as a sort of correction to the common-law, by  
 “ restraining such offenders through fear of due  
 “ punishment, who were emboldened by pre-  
 “ suming on the benefit of clergy, allowed by  
 “ the



“ the common-law. But if it is to exclude none  
 “ from their clergy, who at common-law would  
 “ have been entitled to it, it can never have any  
 “ effect, and may be as well repealed.

“ And if the ſtatute is to have any force or  
 “ effect at all, there can be no doubt but it muſt  
 “ extend to the preſent caſe. It is expreſſly  
 “ within the words: Mr. Rickets was ſtabbed,  
 “ having then no weapon drawn in his hand,  
 “ and not having before ſtruck the perſon who  
 “ ſtabbed him. It is plainly within the inten-  
 “ tion; which is declared in the preamble to  
 “ have been in order to puniſh ſtabbing or kill-  
 “ ing upon the ſudden, committed in rage, or  
 “ any other paſſion of the mind, &c. and there-  
 “ fore it was ſubmitted to the court, whether  
 “ upon the facts proved, and not denied, the  
 “ conſequence of the law was not clear, that the  
 “ priſoner was guilty within both indictments.”

Mr. Baron Reynolds, and Mr. Recorder before whom the priſoner was tried, taking notice of the points of law that had ariſen, the learned arguments of the council, and the many caſes cited upon this occaſion, were of opinion, that it would be proper to have the facts found ſpecially, that they might be put in a way of receiving a more ſolemn determination.

A ſpecial verdict was accordingly agreed on by all parties, and drawn up in the uſual manner, viz. by giving a true ſtate of the facts as they appeared in evidence, and concluding thus: “ We  
 “ find that the deceased was about the age of 19,  
 “ and Mr. Chetwynd about the age of 15; and  
 “ that of this wound the deceased died, on the  
 “ 29th of the ſaid September; but whether upon  
 “ the whole, the priſoner is guilty of all, or any  
 “ of

“ of the said indictment, the jurors submit to the  
 “ judgment of the court.”

In consequence of this special verdict the case was argued before the twelve judges, who deemed Chetwynd to have been guilty of manslaughter only; whereupon he was set at liberty after being burnt in the hand.

As we have given the opinion of the council in this case so fully, it will be the less necessary to make any long remarks on it: but it is proper that we should earnestly recommend to young gentlemen who are placed at the same seminaries of learning, to avoid quarrels; to cultivate the friendship of each other; and to live in harmony like so many brothers of the same family.

Thus will they acquire the esteem of their preceptors, rivet the love and affection of their parents and other relations; and take one essential step towards obtaining the blessing of God.



An Account of MARTHA TRACEY, who was  
 hanged at *Tyburn* for a *Street-Robbery*.

**T**HIS woman was a native of Bristol, descended of poor parents, who educated her in the best manner in their power. Getting a place in the service of a merchant, when she was sixteen years of age, she lived with him three years, and then came to London.

Having procured a place in a house where lodgings were let to single gentlemen, and being a girl of an elegant appearance, and fond of dress, she was liable to a variety of temptations.

Her vanity being even more than equal to her beauty, she at length conceived that she had made a conquest of one of the gentlemen lodgers, and was foolish enough to think he would marry her.

With a view of keeping alive the passion she thought she had inspired, she sought every pretence of going into his chamber, and he having some designs against her virtue, purchased her some new cloaths, in which she went to church on the following Sunday, where she was observed by her mistress.

On their return from church, the mistress strictly enquired how she came to be possessed of such fine cloaths; and having learnt the real state of the case, she was discharged from her service on the Monday morning.

As she still thought the gentleman intended marriage, she wrote to him, desiring he would meet her at a public-house; and on his attending, she wept incessantly, and complained of the treatment she had met with from her mistress, which she attributed to the presents she had received from him.

The seducer advised her to calm her spirits, and go into lodgings which he would immediately provide for her, and where he could securely visit her till their marriage should take place.

Deluded by this artifice, she went that day to lodge at a house in the Strand, which he said was kept by a lady who was related to him. In this place he visited her on the following, and several successive days; attending her to public places, and making her presents of elegant cloaths, which effectually flattered her vanity, and lulled asleep the small remains of her virtue.

It is needless to say that her ruin followed. After a connection of a few months, she found him

him less frequent in his visits; and informing him that she was with child, demanded that he would make good his promise of marriage: on which he declared that he had never intended to marry her, and that he would not maintain her any longer; and hinted that she should seek another lodging.

On the following day the mistress of the house told her that she must not remain there any longer, unless she would pay for her lodgings in advance; which being unable to do, or perhaps unwilling to remain in a house where she had been so unworthily treated, she packed up her effects, and removed to another lodging.

When she was brought to bed, the father took away the infant, and left the wretched mother in a very distressed situation. Having subsisted for some time by pawning her cloaths, she was at length so reduced as to listen to the advice of a woman of the town, who persuaded her to procure a subsistence by the casual wages of prostitution.

Having embarked in this horrid course of life, she soon became a common street-walker, and experienced all those calamities incident to so deplorable a situation. Being sometimes tempted to pick pockets for a subsistence, she became an occasional visitor at Bridewell, where her mind grew only the more corrupt by the conversation of the abandoned wretches confined in that place.

We come now to speak of the fact, the commission of which forfeited her life to the violated laws of her country.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of January, 1745, she was indicted for robbing William Humphreys of a guinea on the king's highway.

The



The fact was, that being passing, at midnight, near Northumberland-house in the Strand, she accosted Mr. Humphreys, who declining to hold any correspondence with her, two fellows with whom she was connected came up, and one of them knocking him down, they both ran away; when she robbed him of a guinea, which she concealed in her mouth: but Mr. Humphreys seizing her, and two persons coming up, she was conducted to the watch-house, where the guinea was found in her mouth, as above-mentioned, by the constable of the night.

At her trial it was proved that she had called the men, one of whom knocked down the prosecutor; so that there could be no doubt of her being an accomplice with them; whereupon the jury brought her in guilty.

After conviction she appeared to have a proper idea of her former guilt, and the horrors of her present situation. In fact she was a sincere penitent, and lamented that pride of heart which had first seduced her to destruction.

She was hanged at Tyburn on the 16th of February, 1745, behaving with the greatest decency and propriety to the last moment of her life.

The fate of this woman affords a striking lesson to girls, against the taking pride in those personal charms, which the more brilliant they are, will be only the more likely to lead them to destruction. The idea she had formed of making a conquest of a man in a rank of life superior to her own, served only to assist towards her ruin: but we cannot help thinking that he who could be base enough to seduce her under solemn promises of marriage was still more guilty than herself;

self; and in some degree an accessory to all the crimes she afterwards committed.

It seems strangely unnatural that the father should take away the child, and leave the mother to perish; or to subsist only in a most infamous manner, for which she had been qualified by the gratification of his passions!

In the gay hours of festivity men may triumph in the advantages they have gained over women in their unguarded moments: but surely reflection must come, with all her attendant train of horrors. Conscience will assert her rights: and the misery the wicked seducer suffers in this life, he ought to consider only as a prelude to the more aggravated torments he has to expect in the next.

If any one of the readers of this narrative has been guilty of the enormous crime we are now reprobating, it will become him to think seriously of the great work of reformation; and to repent, in the most unfeigned manner, while providence yet permits him the opportunity of repentance. It ought to be remembered, by offenders of every class, that the GOD of MERCY is also a GOD of JUSTICE!



Account of MATTHEW HENDERSON, who was hanged in *Oxford-Street, London*, for *Murder*.

THIS offender was the son of honest parents, and born at North Berwick in Scotland, where he was educated in the liberal manner customary in that country, and brought up in  
the

the doctrine of the Christian religion, as professed by the Presbyterians.

Sir Hugh Dalrymple being a member of the British parliament, took Henderson into his service when fourteen years of age, and brought him to London. Before he was nineteen years old he married one of his master's maids: but Sir Hugh, who had a great regard for him, did not dismiss him, though he was greatly chagrined at this circumstance.

Some few days before the commission of the murder, Sir Hugh having occasion to go out of town for a month, summoned Henderson to assist in dressing him; and while he was thus employed, Sir Hugh's lady going into the room the servant casually trod on her toe. She said not a word on the occasion; but looked at him with a degree of rage that made him extremely uneasy.

When Sir Hugh had taken his leave, she demanded of Henderson why he had trod on her toe; in answer to which he made many apologies, and ascribed the circumstance to mere accident; but she gave him a blow on the ear, and declared that she would dismiss him from her service.

Henderson said it would be unnecessary to turn him away; for he would go without compulsion: but reflecting that her passion would soon subside, he continued in his place; and was used with as much kindness as if the accident had not taken place.

Offended by the insult that had been offered him, Henderson began to consider how he should be revenged; and at length came to the fatal resolution of murdering his mistress. The maid-servant going out one night, at past eleven

o'clock, to see a relation, took the key of the street-door in her pocket.

In her absence Henderson thought that would be a proper time to carry his horrid plan into execution; on which he went into the kitchen, and having furnished himself with a cleaver, he retired to his bed-chamber, where he remained more than a quarter of an hour, deliberating whether he should or should not commit the murder; and at length he thought himself determined, and went up the stairs, as far as the first landing place: but smitten by his conscience, he descended; sat some time on his bed; then again ascended a part of the stairs, and again came down; incapable for the present of carrying his dreadful purpose into execution.

Once more he mustered spirits to go up as far as the first window; when hearing the watchman crying the midnight hour, he tripped down a few steps: but immediately summoning his shocking resolution, he went up, and opened the lady's chamber-door, having the cleaver in his hand.

Approaching the bed-side, he found her asleep: but still hesitated on the commission of the crime, and walked across the room in the utmost perturbation of mind. At length he went again to the bed, and struck her violently on the head with the cleaver. On receiving the blow, she attempted to get up, but he repeated it, and then heard her speak some words, but not plain enough to distinguish what she said.

Hereupon he gave her a third blow, on which she exclaimed, "O Lord! what is this!"—He now continued his blows till she fell out of bed, and the room streamed with blood. Terrified at  
what



what he had done, he quitted the room, and threw the cleaver into the necessary-house.

The murder thus perpetrated, he resolved to add to it the crime of robbery; and going back to the room, he stole some money, jewels, and other valuable effects, which he carried to his wife's lodgings, put them in a box, and immediately went back.

On his return he found that he had shut himself out; but the maid returning soon afterwards unlocked the door, and they went in. The maid observing blood on the floor below stairs, suspected that some mischief had happened; on which she ran up stairs, and finding her lady lying in the manner above-described, she came down weeping.

As soon as it was day-light Henderson went to the nephew of Sir Hugh Dalrymple, and informed that gentleman of the misfortune that had happened; on which the maid was taken into custody on suspicion, and carried before a magistrate, who, from her answers, had a strong idea that the fact was committed by Henderson.

Hereupon he was apprehended by a constable, with whom he went very chearfully: but the magistrate examining him with unusual strictness, found many contradictions in his story; and at length he confessed that he alone had transacted the murderous business.

On this confession he was committed to Newgate, and being brought to his trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty, and sentence of death was passed on him of course.

After conviction he was attended by a minister of the Presbyterian persuasion. His behaviour was very penitent and contrite during his imprisonment.

sonment; and at the place of execution he made a speech, advising servants to be obedient to their masters, and to behave with submission, instead of harbouring sentiments of revenge.

On the 25th of February, 1746, he was drawn on a sledge to the end of Oxford-street, where he was executed; and his body was afterwards hung in chains on the road towards Edgware.

The history of this malefactor affords a more forcible lesson against the crime of murder than it is in our power to recommend. The agitations, the compunctions of his mind, are inexpressible. How long, and how frequently did he hesitate whether he should or should not commit the atrocious crime for which his life paid the forfeit! Pity it is that he did not relent while it was yet in his power!

It is true that Henderson had given no real cause of offence by the casual treading on his mistress's toe; and her behaviour in striking him for it was unwarrantable: but he should have allowed for the incensed passions of an angry woman; and he was still the more culpable in not reflecting that her subsequent behaviour furnished a proof that she had forgot her resentment.

No offence given can justify murder: and we should retain it perpetually in our thoughts, that there is a just God who surveys, and who will cause a strict enquiry into all our actions. Each of us should say with the poet,

Let me improve the hours I have,  
 Before the day of grace is fled;  
 There's no repentance in the grave,  
 Nor pardon offered to the dead.

Account of the remarkable Life and Transactions of HENRY SIMMS, who was executed at Tyburn for a *Highway Robbery*.

**T**HIS offender, who was a native of St. Martin in the Fields, losing his father while very young, his grandmother, who was a dissenter, sent him first to a school kept by a clergyman of her own persuasion; but as he frequently ran away, she placed him at an academy in St. James's parish, where he became a proficient in writing and arithmetic, and was likewise a tolerable Latin and French scholar.

Before the boy had completed his tenth year he gave a specimen of his dishonest disposition. His grandmother taking him with her on a visit to a tradesman's house, he stole twenty shillings from the till in the shop; which being observed by the maid-servant, she informed her master; and the money being found on the youth, he was severely punished.

He now began to lie from home on nights, and associated with the vilest of company, in the purlicues of St. Giles's. His companions advising him to rob his grandmother, he stole seventeen pounds from her, and taking his best apparel, repaired to St. Giles's, where his new acquaintance made him drunk, put him to bed, and then robbed him of his money and cloaths.

On his waking he covered himself with some rags he found in the room, and after strolling through the streets in search of the villains, went into an alehouse, the landlord of which, hearing his tale, interceded with his grandmother to take him again under her protection. To this, after some hesitation, she consented; and buying a chain

chain with a padlock, she had him fastened, during the day-time, to the kitchen-grate, and at night he slept with a man who was directed to take care that he did not escape.

After a month of confinement he had his liberty granted him, and new cloaths purchased, with which he immediately went among some young thieves who were tossing up for money in St. Giles's. On the approach of night they took him to a brick-kiln near Tottenham-Court-Road, where they broiled some steaks and supped in concert; and were soon joined by some women, who brought some geneva, with which the whole company regaled themselves.

Simms falling asleep, was robbed of his cloaths; and when the brick-makers came to work in the morning, they found him in his shirt only; and while they were conducting him towards town, he was met by his grandmother's servant, who was in search of him, and conveyed him to her house.

Notwithstanding his former behaviour, the old lady received him kindly, and placed him with a breeches-maker, who having corrected him for his ill behaviour, he ran away, and taking his best cloaths from his grandmother's house in her absence, sold them to a Jew and spent the money in extravagance.

The old gentlewoman now went to live at the house of Lady Stanhope, whither the graceless boy followed her, and being refused admittance, he broke several of the windows. This in some measure compelled his grandmother to admit him; but that very night he robbed the house of as many things as produced him nine pounds, which he carried to a barn in Marybone-Fields, and spent it among his dissolute companions.

For



For this offence he was apprehended, and, after some hesitation, confessed where he had sold the effects. From this time his grandmother gave him up as incorrigible; and being soon afterwards apprehended as a pickpocket, he was discharged for want of evidence.

Simms now associated with the worst of company; but after a narrow escape on a charge of being concerned in sending a threatening letter to extort money, and two of his companions being transported for other offences, he seemed deterred from continuing his evil courses; and thereupon wrote to his grandmother, entreating her farther protection.

Still anxious to save him from destruction, she prevailed on a friend to take him into his house, where for some time he behaved regularly; but getting among his old associates, they robbed a gentleman of his watch and money, and threw him into a ditch in Marybone-Fields: when some persons accidentally coming up, prevented his destruction.

Two more of Simms's companions being now transported, he hired himself to an inn-keeper as a driver of a post chaise; and after that lived as postillion to a nobleman, but was soon discharged on account of his irregular conduct.

Having received some wages he went again among the thieves, who dignified him with the title of *Gentleman Harry* on account of his presumed skill, and the gentility of his appearance.

Simms now became intimately acquainted with a woman who lived with one of his accomplices, in revenge for which the fellow procured both him and the woman to be taken into custody on a charge of felony; and they were committed to

Newgate; but the court paying no regard to the credibility of the witnesses, the prisoners were acquitted.

Soon after his discharge Simms robbed a gentleman of his watch and 17l. on Blackheath; and likewise robbed a lady of a considerable sum near the same spot. Being followed to Lewisham, he was obliged to quit his horse, when he presented two pistols to his pursuers; but which he intimidated them so as to effect his escape, though with the loss of his horse.

Repairing to London, he bought another horse, and travelling into Northamptonshire, and putting up at an inn at Towcester, learnt that a military gentleman had hired a chaise for London; on which he followed the chaise the next morning, and kept up with it for several miles. At length the gentleman observing him, said "Don't ride so hard, sir, you'll soon ride away your whole estate;" to which Simms replied, "Indeed I shall not, for it lays in several counties:" and instantly quitting his horse, he robbed the gentleman of one hundred and two guineas.

He now hastened to London, and having dissipated his ill-acquired money at a gaming-table, he rode out towards Hounslow, and meeting the postillion who had driven the above-mentioned gentleman in Northamptonshire, he gave him five shillings, begging he would not take notice of having seen him.

A reward being at length offered for apprehending Simms, he entered on board a privateer; but being soon weary of a sea-faring life, he deserted, and enlisted for a soldier. While in this station he knocked out the eye of a woman at a  
house

house of ill fame; for which he was apprehended and lodged in New Prison.

Soon after this Justice De Veil admitted him an evidence against some felons, his accomplices, who were transported, and Simms regained his liberty.

Being apprehended for robbing a baker's shop, he was convicted, and being sentenced to be transported, was accordingly shipped on board one of the transport-vessels, which sailing round to the Isle of Wight, he formed a plan for seizing the captain, and effecting an escape: but as a strict watch was kept on him, it was not possible for him to carry this plan into execution.

The ship arriving at Maryland, Simms was sold for twelve guineas\*, but he found an early opportunity of deserting from the purchaser. Having learnt that his master's horse was left tied to a gate at some distance from the dwelling-house, he privately decamped in the night, and rode 30 miles in four hours, through extremely bad roads; so powerfully was he impelled by his fears.

He now found himself by the sea-side, and, turning the horse loose, he hailed a vessel just under sail, from which a boat was sent to bring him on board. As hands were very scarce, the captain offered him six guineas, which were readily accepted, to work his passage to England.

N 2

There

\* The legality of selling transports as slaves has been a subject of debate. To the eye of reason it should seem that the captain has no right to sell them; for though they may have forfeited their claim to liberty in their own country, the law does not sentence them to slavery in another.

There being at this time a war between England and France, the ship was taken by a French privateer; but soon afterwards ransomed; and Simms entered on board a man of war, where his diligence promoted him to the rank of a midshipman; but the ship had no sooner arrived at Plymouth than he quitted his duty, and travelling to Bristol, spent the little money he possessed in the most dissipated manner.

His next step was to enter himself on board a coasting-vessel at Bristol, but he had not been long at sea before, on a dispute with the captain, he threatened to throw him overboard, and would have carried his threats into execution if the other seamen had not prevented him. Simms asked for his wages when the ship returned to port; but the captain threatening imprisonment for his ill behaviour at sea, he decamped with only eight shillings in his possession.

Fertile of contrivances, he borrowed a bridle and saddle, and having stolen a horse in a field near the city, he went once more on the highway, and taking the road to London, robbed the passengers in the Bristol coach, those in another carriage, and a single lady and gentleman, and repaired to London with the booty he had acquired.

Having put up the stolen horse at an inn in Whitechapel, and soon afterwards seeing it advertised, he was afraid to fetch it: on which he stole another horse; but as he was riding through Tyburn-Turnpike, the keeper knowing the horse, brought the rider to the ground.

Hereupon Simms presented a pistol, and threatened the man with instant death if he presumed to detain him. By this daring mode of proceeding



ing he obtained his liberty, and having made a tour round the fields, he entered London by another road.

On the following day he went to Kingston upon Thames, where he stole a horse; and he robbed several people on his return to London: and the day afterwards robbed seven farmers of eighteen pounds. His next depredations were on Epping-Forest, where he committed five robberies in one day, but soon spent what he thus gained among women of ill fame.

Thinking it unsafe to remain longer in London, he set out with a view to go to Ireland, but had rode only to Barnet when he crossed the country to Harrow on the Hill, where he robbed a gentleman named Sleep of his money and watch; and would have taken his wig, but the other said it was of no value, and hoped, as it was cold weather, his health might not be endangered by being deprived of it.

The robber threatened Mr. Sleep's life, unless he would swear never to take any notice of the affair; but this the gentleman absolutely refused. Hereupon Simms said that if he had not robbed him two other persons would: and told him to say "Thomas" if he should meet any people on horse-back.

Soon after this Mr. Sleep meeting two men whom he presumed to be accomplices of the highwayman, cried out "Thomas:" but the travellers paying no regard to him, he was confirmed in his suspicions, and rode after them; and, on his arrival at Hoddesdon Green, he found several other persons, all of them in pursuit of the highwayman.

In the mean time Simms rode forwards, and robbed the St. Alban's stage; after which he went

as far as Hockliffe; but being now greatly fatigued, he fell asleep in the kitchen of an inn, whither he was pursued by some light horsemen from St. Albans, who took him into custody.

Being confined for that night, he was carried in the morning before a magistrate, who committed him to Bedford Goal. By an unaccountable neglect, his pistol had not been taken from him, and on his way to prison he attempted to shoot one of his guards; but the pistol missing fire, his hands were tied behind him; and when he arrived at the prison he was fastened to the floor, with an iron collar round his neck.

Being removed to London by a writ of habeas corpus, he was lodged in Newgate, where he was visited, from motives of curiosity, by numbers of people whom he amused with a narrative of his having been employed to shoot the king.

On this he was examined before the Duke of Newcastle, then Secretary of State; but his whole story bearing evident marks of a fiction, he was remanded to Newgate, to take his trial at the ensuing Old Bailey sessions.

Ten indictments were preferred against him; but being convicted for the robbery of Mr. Sleep, it was not thought necessary to arraign him on any other of the indictments.

After conviction he behaved with great unconcern, and in some instances with insolence. Having given a fellow-prisoner a violent blow, he was chained to the floor. He appeared shocked when the warrant for his execution arrived; but soon resuming his former indifference, he continued it even to the moment of execution, when he behaved in the most thoughtless manner.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1746.

Young

Young people who read this narrative, will do well to reflect that Simms's fatal exit seems to have had its origin in his disobedience to his grandmother, who had behaved towards him with the tenderness of a real parent. This youth had received a liberal education, which one would think might have helped to prevent his engaging in those low connections which assisted in bringing him to destruction.

His several escapes from punishment, and the variety of his adventures afterwards, ought to have taught him gratitude to that providence which had given him so many warnings to reform the error of his way: but he seemed fully determined to rush on his own destruction.

What shall we say to a conduct so preposterous! If we do not know that man was a free agent, we might suppose that he had been impelled by a secret power that he could not resist; but the fact is, that it was his vices which impelled him: from which we may learn that the effectual way not to be urged forward to evil, is to form a christian resolution never to depart from the line of virtue; and this, with the assistance of divine grace, will always answer the end proposed.



Circumstantial Account of the Cause and Consequences of the REBELLION which broke out in Scotland in the Year 1745.

HAVING given the history of the principal offenders who were executed for being concerned in the rebellion in 1715, our readers will naturally expect an account of those who suffered

ferred for the share they had in the subsequent insurrection; in which we shall be as particular as the limits of our plan will allow; and, in our narrative of the unfortunate offenders, endeavour to divest ourselves of party prejudice as much as possible.

Great Britain being at war with France, and having an army in Flanders, the French thought that by making a descent in the north of Scotland, and fomenting a rebellion, the court of London would think it necessary to withdraw the troops from Flanders, which would enable the French to act with more effect against the allied army.

The French having fitted out a fleet at Brest, in 1743, with a view of invading Great Britain, and Charles Stewart, son of the pretended prince of Wales, being on board, an English fleet from Spithead sailed in quest of the French, whom they drove back to their ports with considerable loss.

In the summer of 1745 the French fitted out a ship at Port Lazare, on board of which were about fifty Irish and Scotch papists; and this vessel being joined off Bellisle by a French man of war, having the Pretender on board, they sailed together, to coast the southern parts of England, and make good a landing among the Western Isles of Scotland.

Captain Brett, in an English ship of war, falling in with them off the Land's-End, disabled one of the French vessels, so that she was obliged to return to France; but the other, in which was the young Pretender, prosecuted her voyage towards the north of Scotland, and arrived at the Isle of Sky, opposite to Lochaber, in the county of Inverness, about the end of the month of July.



The people being disembarked, the pretender took up his residence with a papist named Macdonald, and continued with him about three weeks; and some of the Scottish clans, to the number of about two thousand men, then joining him, he erected a standard with the motto *Tandem Triumphans*\*.

The rebels now marched towards Fort William, where the pretender published a manifesto, which his father had signed at Rome; containing abundant promises to such as would adhere to his cause; two of which were, a dissolution of the union between the two kingdoms, and a payment of the national debt.

This circumstance induced many of the ignorant country people to flock to his standard, till at length his undisciplined rabble began to assume the appearance of an army, which struck terror to the well-affected wherever it came.

These transactions, however, had not passed so secretly, but that the governor of Fort William informed the Lord Justice Clerk of Edinburgh of all he could learn of the affair; on which the latter dispatched an express to the north, ordering the assistance of all officers civil and military: and this express arrived about the time that the pretender erected his standard.

The governor of Fort William having received these orders, dispatched two companies of the first regiment of foot to oppose the rebels; but many of the unhappy men fell a sacrifice to their martial ardor, and several of the officers were made prisoners; though on giving their parole of honour they were afterwards released.

In the interim the Lord Justice Clerk ordered Sir John Cope, commander in chief of the forces in the south of Scotland, to march against the rebels; but in making the circuit of the immense mountains of Argyleshire, the two armies failed to meet; on which Sir John went to Inverness, to refresh his troops after the fatigue of the march.

The armies having thus casually missed each other, the rebels proceeded to Perth, and having taken possession of that place, the pretender issued his orders for all persons who were in possession of public money to pay it into the hands of his secretary, whose receipts should be a full acquittal for the same.

During the pretender's stay at Perth, several noblemen and gentlemen joined him, particularly lord George Murray, brother to the duke of Athol, and a person who assumed the title of duke of Perth; and these new adherents bringing with them their tenants and dependants, the rebel troops began to assume an air of consequence; and the pretender was proclaimed at the Market-Cross of Perth.

In the mean time general Cope sent from Inverness an express to Aberdeen, for the transport-vessels in that harbour to be ready to receive his troops; and embarking on the eighteenth of September, he disembarked them at Dunbar.

During these transactions general Gueft, who commanded the castle of Edinburgh, gave the magistrates of that city several pieces of cannon for the defence of the place; and colonel James Gardiner repaired from Stirling to Edinburgh with two regiments of dragoons: but learning that general Cope had landed at Dunbar, which  
is

is twenty-seven miles east of Edinburgh, he proceeded, to effect a juncture with that general.

The pretender and his adherents now marched to Dumblain, where, in a council of war, it was determined to cross the Forth at Stirling; but one of the arches of the bridge having been destroyed by general Blakeney, the rebels were compelled to ford the river at a place three miles to the westward; which they effected without any loss.

This being done, they marched to Callington, four miles from Edinburgh, and some volunteers of that city were dispatched to prevent their proceeding farther: but the rebels wheeling southwards, encamped that night at a village called Duddingston; and on the following day the pretender proceeded through the Royal Park, and took possession of Holyrood-House.

The money in the bank of Edinburgh, and the records in the public offices, were now removed to the castle for security, and the gates of the city were kept fast during the whole day: but five hundred of the rebels having concealed themselves in the suburbs, took an opportunity, at four o'clock the next morning, to follow a coach which was going in, and seizing the gate called the Netherbow, they maintained their ground while the body reached the center of the city, and formed themselves in the Parliament Close.

Thus possessed of the capital, they seized two thousand stand of arms, and, on the following day, marched to oppose the royal army under the command of general Cope: and the two armies being within sight of each other near Preston Pans on the evening of the twentieth, colonel Gardiner earnestly recommended it to the general to attack them during the night: but deaf to this

advice, he kept the men under arms till morning, though they were already greatly harrassed.

At five in the morning the rebels made a furious attack on the royal army, and threw them into unspeakable confusion, by two regiments of dragoons falling back on the foot. Colonel Gardiner, with five hundred foot, behaved with uncommon valour, and covered the retreat of those who fled; but the colonel receiving a mortal wound, the rebels made prisoners of the rest of the king's troops.

Flushed with this partial victory, the rebels returned in high spirits to Edinburgh, which was only seven miles distant from the place of action. They now sent foraging parties through the country, with orders to seize all the horses and waggon they could find: and in the interim a party of the insurgents attempted to throw up an intrenchment on the castle hill. Hereupon the governor, necessitated to oppose the assailants, yet anxious for the safety of the inhabitants, sent a messenger in the night, to intimate to those who lived near the castle hill, that they would do well to remove out of danger.

A soon as it was day-light, the battery of the rebels was destroyed by a discharge of the great cannon from the Half-Moon, and thirty of them killed, with three of the inhabitants, who had rashly ventured near the spot.

The governor being greatly deficient in provisions, a gentleman ordered above fifty fine bullocks to be driven into the city, on a pretence that they were for the use of the rebels; and the persons who drove them leaving them on the castle hill, the governor and five hundred men sallied forth, and drove them in at the gate, while  
the



the rebels played their artillery with unremitting fury.

While the rebels continued in Edinburgh, which was about seven weeks, some noblemen and their adherents joined them; so that their army amounted to almost ten thousand men. They now levied large contributions, not only in Edinburgh, but through the adjacent country; and those who furnished them received receipts, signed "*CHARLES, Prince Regent.*"

In the interim some ships from France arrived in the Forth, laden with ammunition; and a person who attended the pretender was dignified with the title of ambassador from his most christian majesty.

General Wade had now the command of some forces which had reached Yorkshire; and some Dutch troops being sent to augment his forces, he marched his troops to Newcastle, with a view to deter the rebels from entering the southern part of the kingdom.

That celebrated prelate, the late Dr. Herring, archbishop of York, distinguished himself gloriously on this interesting occasion. Joining with the high-sheriff to assemble the freeholders, the archbishop preached an animated sermon to them; and then the several parties agreed to assist each other in support of their civil and religious rights. Many people in Yorkshire were prevented from engaging in the rebellion by this spirited, and well-timed conduct.

The Lord President Forbes, and the earl of Loudon, acted in a manner equally zealous in Scotland. Having collected a number of the loyal Highlanders into a body, many others who would have joined the rebels were thereby deterred; and this proceeding proved of the most es-

fential service towards the suppression of the rebellion.

The rebels quitting Edinburgh in the beginning of November, marched to Dalkeith, where they encamped; and a report was circulated that they proposed to make an attack on Berwick; but this was only a contrivance to conceal their real designs.

In the mean time more than a thousand of the rebels deserted, in consequence of general Wade's publishing a pardon to such as would return to their duty as good subjects, within a limited time. Still, however, the rebels had above eight thousand men able to bear arms; yet general Wade would have marched to attack them, but that his soldiers were ill of the flux, owing to the severity of the season and the fatigues they had undergone.

The rebels advanced to Carlisle on the 9th of November, and demanded that the garrison should surrender: which was refused for some days; but a scarcity of provisions rendering longer resistance useless, the governor delivered up the city, into which the rebels entered, and the pretender was proclaimed.

The surrender of Carlisle being made known to general Wade, he marched from Newcastle with such of his troops as were in any condition to move; and the first division reached Hexham in the afternoon of the seventeenth of November, the second arriving at the same place about midnight: but the general found it expedient to return to Newcastle with the third, who were unable to bear the fatigue of prosecuting the march. The inhabitants of Newcastle subscribed to purchase flannel waistcoats for those distressed men, and furnished them with the best accommodations in their power.

About

About this period King George the II<sup>d</sup>. arriving in London, from a visit to his German dominions, both houses of parliament immediately assembled, and a bill was passed for suspending the habeas corpus act for six months; by which the king was, for that period, empowered to seize all suspected persons, and commit them to prison, without specifying the reason of such commitment\*.

The effects of this act were the apprehension and commitment of many suspected persons in both kingdoms: but it did not appear to stop the progress of the rebellion; for the insurgents had by this time reached Manchester, where they raised a regiment consisting chiefly of Roman Catholics.

The whole kingdom was now in a ferment, and every loyal subject was anxious for his personal security. The duke of Cumberland being now in Flanners, it was judged adviseable to send for him to take the command of the king's forces.

About the time he arrived in London, the rebels had advanced as far as Derby: but his royal highness lost no time in travelling into Staffordshire, where he collected all the force he could, to stop their farther inroads into the kingdom.

The duke now expected a junction of the forces under general Wade, who had marched from Newcastle to Darlington, and taking a westward course, had stationed his troops near Wetherby. The rebels having advice of this motion, it was proposed by some of them to march into North-Wales; but others opposed this, on the presumption

---

\* This is a privilege dangerous to the rights of Britons, and never trusted even in the hands of the sovereign, but in cases of the utmost emergency.

tion that they should then be surrounded by the royal army, and compelled to surrender themselves prisoners at discretion, as they would have no opportunity of retreating to Scotland.

The rebels while at Derby held frequent councils respecting their proceedings, and the inhabitants of the place remarked that the principal men among them seemed very low in spirits; and this dejection was increased when they heard that an English man of war had taken a ship bound from France for their use, laden with arms and money.

General Wade having reviewed his troops at Wetherby on the fifth of December, marched to join the duke of Cumberland in Staffordshire; so that the rebels were compelled to retreat northwards, in hope of supplies which had been promised them from France. At this time they received the agreeable news that John lord Drummond had defeated the Highlanders commanded by the earl of Loudon, and had arrived at Perth with three thousand men.

This last article of intelligence somewhat encouraged them; and having raised what money they could at Derby, they proceeded to Manchester, in their way to which they damaged the high-ways, and destroyed the bridges, to retard the progress of the king's troops. They were now in possession of fifteen pieces of cannon, some of which they brought from Carlisle, and others from Edinburgh: but most of these were useless, for want of engineers to work them.

The pretender reaching Manchester on the 9th of December, his soldiers were treated very contemptuously by some people of the town; on which Mr. Murray, secretary to the young adventurer, issued an order for the payment of two thou-



thousand five hundred pounds, on pain of military execution.

The rebels now proceeded by the way of Preston and Lancaster to Kendal, at which last place they halted one night; but some of the inhabitants fired guns from their windows; so exasperated were they against them.

In the interim the king's troops, under the command of the duke of Cumberland and Sir John Ligonier, arrived near Litchfield, where orders were issued to distress the rebels to the utmost. Sir John commanded the fort; but the duke put himself at the head of the dragoons, with a view of coming up with the rebels, and in the hope of meeting general Wade near Kendal or Lancaster.

Mr. Wade having held a council of war at Ferrybridge, it was determined to march northward; but on the arrival of the army at Wakefield, intelligence was brought that the rebels had retired; on which Mr. Wade dispatched the dragoons, under the command of general Ogelthorpe, to join his royal highness; while himself retreated to Newcastle with the infantry.

Though the season was severe, and the oads inexpressibly bad, Mr. Ogelthorpe, by means of forced marches, conducted his troops a hundred miles in three days, and joined the duke of Cumberland at Lancaster, on the 14th of December. Here the dragoons were reviewed by his royal highness; and on the following day they marched to Kendal, in the hope of overtaking the rebels: but the latter retreated on hearing of their advance.

His royal highness overtaking the rebels at Clifton on the eighteenth, dislodged them from

that place after a sharp rencounter. While the royal army was engaged with the rear of the rebels, the main body of the latter retired to Carlisle, where they left five hundred of their Lancashire troops in garrison; and on the following day pursued their rout for Scotland, in three divisions. Several of them were drowned in crossing the River Esk; and the duke arrived at Carlisle, and summoned it to surrender, the day after they had quitted it. Some hesitation was at first made; but the duke sending to Whitehaven for some artillery, offers of capitulation were made by the rebels.

On this his royal highness returned an answer, importing that their submission must be unconditional; for that he could not make terms with rebels; whereupon they all surrendered; and being taken into the cathedral, were there handcuffed, and conveyed to different prisons. This service being performed; and information being received that the French had an intention of invading England, the duke of Cumberland went to London, to give his advice as a privy counsellor, in consequence of an express demanding his attendance.

Lord Loudon so exerted himself while the rebels were gone into England, that he prevented many parties of Highlanders from joining them. A thousand men were raised at Edinburgh, and a like number at Glasgow: on which the pretender ordered the people of Glasgow to pay 30,000*l.* on pain of military execution; and with this order they were obliged to comply.

Three bodies of the rebels from Carlisle meeting near Glasgow on the last day of the year 1745, marched to Stirling, which they summoned to surrender. The town being indefensible,  
the

the magistrates threw open the gates; and a summons was sent to general Blakeney, to surrender the castle: but this he absolutely refused, saying that he would defend it to the utmost extremity. On this the rebels began to besiege it; but receiving intelligence that general Hawley had marched to Linlithgow, they abandoned the siege, and met the army under that general's command near Falkirk.

General Hawley drew up his troops to the best possible advantage on the 17th of January, and an engagement ensued; but many of the soldiers could not fire their muskets, owing to some snow and rain which fell at the time. The dragoons, who had given way at Preston Pans, now again retreated; and if general Huske had not rallied a square battalion of infantry, the rebels would have surrounded the king's troops. Many officers fell in this action; and at length victory declaring for the rebels, the royal army retreated to Linlithgow, and thence to Edinburgh.

On the following day the rebels buried their dead; and then marching back to Stirling, again summoned general Blakeney to surrender: but his answer was, that he would be buried under the ruins of the castle, sooner than yield it into their hands. On this they began a second siege; but having only seven pieces of cannon, their efforts were very feeble, while many of them were destroyed by the guns from the castle; on which they raised the siege soon afterwards.

The king's officers, who had been made prisoners at Preston-Pans, were sent to Perth; but the inhabitants of that place rising while the pretender was at Stirling, rescued the prisoners, and conducting them to Edinburgh, they were very

serviceable in the operations of the ensuing campaign.

A general apprehension for the public safety now prevailed throughout Scotland; and a minute narrative of the state of affairs being from time to time transmitted to London, it was at length resolved in council to take such steps as might effectually crush the rebellion.

Hercupon the duke of Cumberland set out for Scotland, and arrived at Edinburgh on [the thirtieth of January, to the great joy of all the loyal subjects; and taking the command of the army, immediately marched in pursuit of the rebels. The army was in three divisions: and his royal highness halted the first night at Linlithgow; while general Mordaunt marched towards Falkirk, to secure the roads and bridges.

On the following day the rebels blew up the church of St. Ninian's, containing their magazine of powder; and then crossed the Forth above Stirling, in great confusion. On this general Mordaunt pursued them at the head of the dragoons, and Argyleshire men, but discontinued the pursuit on his arrival at Stirling. When his royal highness reached Stirling he went to the castle, and expressed his approbation of general Blakeney's conduct, in terms highly honourable to that commander.

The rebels proceeding northwards, lord John Drummond, and lord Lewis Gordon joined them with some auxiliary forces; but such a distraction now prevailed in their councils, and they were so apprehensive of failure in their grand attempt, that they were almost reduced to despair.

In the mean time the expedition undertaken by the duke of Cumberland, was conducted with  
equal



equal diligence and success. It was but about a week from his leaving London, till he saw the rebels flying before him; while the loyal Scots hailed him as one sent from heaven to their relief. The rebels were now much disheartened; but in order to keep up the spirits of their party, they propagated a report that some troops from France were to be landed to assist them; and that they should be able to harass the king's troops by removing the seat of war to the Highlands.

Their designs being penetrated by the duke of Cumberland, and his generals, the royal army marched to Perth, where a great number of volunteers joined them; and thence to Aberdeen; the king's troops sustaining the rigours of the season with a spirit that did them honour.

Several towns between Aberdeen and Inverness being in possession of the rebels; particularly Strathbogie; the generals Mordaunt and Bland forced them from that place, where there were more than a thousand of them, under the command of colonel Roy Stewart, who had come from France with the young pretender. At this time a ship arrived from France, with some cash for the rebels, who circulated a report that the sum was very large; though this was far from being the truth.

His royal highness marched from Aberdeen on the eighth of April, and encamped near Culloden, where lord Albemarle joined him; and on the following day the combined army passed the river Spey, without any material loss.

While they passed this river the rebels were within view, but they retired hastily towards Elgin, and were pursued by Kingston's light horse, and the Highlanders of Argyleshire, but not in time to effect any important service.

The king's troops arriving at Nairn on the fifteenth of the month, the rebels intended to have surprized them; but their plan was rendered abortive by the sagacious conduct of the duke of Cumberland, who reviewed his troops on this day; but the rebels came to a resolution to engage on the following.

His royal highness drew up his forces in order of battle on the morning of the sixteenth, but the rebels not appearing in sight, the army marched by defiles, and continued this motion till between twelve and one o'clock; when they saw the rebels; and then the army formed in three lines, being flanked by the dragoons, and supported by the artillery.

The rebels began the engagement by a furious attack, which the king's army received with the calmest intrepidity. The rebels were so annoyed by the fire from the royal artillery, that in less than a quarter of a hour their ranks were broken; and the wings of their army being out-flanked by the dragoons, the center gave way, and the rebels fled towards Inverness. Kingston's light horse pursuing them at full speed, the roads were covered with the bodies of unhappy wretches, who fell sacrifices to that obedience they had been taught was due to their tyrannical chiefs.

General Mordaunt, at the head of a party of dragoons, was sent in pursuit of those who still continued in arms, whom he followed beyond Inverness, and totally routed them. The young pretender escaped to the house of lord Lovat, where he was disguised in the dress of a woman, to prevent his falling into the hands of the king's troops.

It would be equally foreign to the purpose of this work, and endless, to recount the innumerable

able difficulties he sustained, and the hardships he endured, before his final escape from these kingdoms. After quitting the house of lord Lovat, he repaired to the Isle of Sky, where he lodged in holes of the rocks, and supported the calls of nature with the utmost difficulty.

At length, after numberless hazards, and imminent escapes, for the space of four months, a French frigate arrived off the western islands of Scotland, in which he embarked, and was safely landed in France.

It appears upon the whole, that this expedition, so hopeless of procuring any advantage to the adventurer, was merely a political stroke of the court of France: and that the pretender himself was but a wretched tool to forward the ambitious designs of that ever restless and perfidious court.

We shall now proceed to give an account of the principal persons who suffered either from their premeditated, or unguarded attachment to a cause which brought ruin and destruction on the heads of its abettors; and though it involved the nation in confusion for some time, did, in the end, more firmly establish the illustrious house of Brunswick on the throne.

Soon after the decisive battle of Culloden, the earls of KALMARNOCK and CROMARTIE, and lord BALMERINO, were taken into custody: and lord LOVAT was afterwards apprehended on a charge of having given advice and assistance to the pretender.

Lord Kilmarnock, who was distinguished by the comeliness of his appearance, was brought up in the profession of the Presbyterian faith; so

that his joining the rebels may be deemed the more extraordinary, as there is no religion farther removed from Popery than that of the Presbytery of Scotland; but his lordship had married a lady who was strongly attached to Jacobitical principles, and who made repeated efforts to convert him to her political sentiments: but, if the accounts transmitted to us are true, he resisted all her arguments till within a few months of the landing of the pretender; when having applied to the ministry for a place under the government, and his suit being rejected, he became determined with regard to his future conduct.

Lord Cromartie derived his descent from a family which had a kind of hereditary attachment to the house of Stuart. James the second had advanced his grandfather to the dignity of an earldom, for supporting him in his unjustifiable views against the rights and privileges of his subjects.

Lord Balmerino, as well as the earl of Cromartie, was a non-juror. He was the youngest son of the preceding lord Balmerino, and succeeded to the title but just before the battle of Culloden. He had been concerned in the rebellion in 1715, but received a pardon through the intercession of his friends. This nobleman was distinguished by his courage, and his skill as a swordsman; nor was he less distinguished by his firm adherence to the principles he had imbibed, as we shall see in the sequel.

Lord Lovat professed the Roman Catholic religion. He possessed consummate abilities, and was profoundly learned: nor was his skill in political matters inferior to his other acquirements; but he seems to have wanted goodness of heart,  
and



and steadiness of principle. As his talents for government were confessedly great, it is supposed that the English ministry refusing to employ him, determined him with regard to the share he took in the rebellion. The duplicity of his conduct is obvious; for while he affected an attachment to the royal family, he held a correspondence with the pretender, who sent him a patent of creation to a dukedom; and indeed the advice of this crafty old peer chiefly contributed to the commencement and continuance of the rebellion.

The lords Kilmarnock, Cromartie and Balmerino being, in the month of July, 1746, brought up to answer for their crimes before the house of peers assembled in Westminster-hall, the two former pleaded guilty: but lord Balmerino pleaded not guilty; on which he was put on his trial, and convicted on the fullest evidence.

When the unfortunate noblemen were carried up to receive sentence, Cromartie and Kilmarnock most humbly besought the peers to make interest with the king in their favour: but Balmerino scorned to ask such a favour, and smiled at his approaching fate.

Great interest being exerted to save the earls, it was hinted to Balmerino, that his friends ought to exert themselves in his behalf; to which, with great magnanimity, he only replied, "I am very  
" indifferent about my own fate; but had the  
" two noble lords been my friends, they would  
" have squeezed my name in among theirs."

The countess of Cromartie, who had a very large family of young children, was incessant in her applications for the pardon of her husband, to obtain which she took a very plausible method. She procured herself to be introduced to the late

princess of Wales, attended by her children in mourning; and urged her suit in the most suppliant terms. The princess had at that time several children. Such an argument could scarcely fail to move; and a pardon was granted to lord Cromartie, on the condition that he should never reside north of the River Trent. This condition was literally complied with; and his lordship died in Soho-square in the year 1766.

Orders being given for the execution of the lords Kilmarnock and Balmerino, on the 18th of August, 1746, a scaffold was erected on Tower-hill, and the coffins were placed on the scaffold, while the sheriffs went to the Tower, to demand the bodies of the devoted victims to public justice.

When the sufferers were brought out of the Tower, Kilmarnock said, "God save king George;" but Balmerino, still true to his former principles, exclaimed, "God save king James."

The way to the place of execution was lined by soldiers of the foot-guards, and parties of the horse and grenadier guards closed the procession to the fatal spot, where they had no sooner arrived than the noblemen were conducted to different apartments, appropriated to the purposes of their private devotions. Lord Kilmarnock was attended by that eminent dissenting minister, Dr. Foster, who had frequently visited him during his confinement.

A clergyman of the established church attended lord Balmerino; and it was remarked that as he passed to the place of execution, some of the spectators said "Which is lord Balmerino?" To which he cheerfully replied, "I am lord Balmerino, gentlemen, at your service."

This brave and unfortunate man, evidently a sufferer from principle, having obtained permission from the sheriffs to speak with lord Kilmarnock, asked him "if he knew of any orders given, previous to the battle of Culloden, that no prisoners should be suffered to live." Kilmarnock denied any knowledge of such orders; on which Balmerino said, "Then it is one of their own inventions, contrived on purpose to justify their conduct."

The unfortunate sufferers having taken a final leave of each other, lord Kilmarnock and his friends joined in prayer with Dr. Foster, after which his lordship drank a glass of wine, and ate a biscuit. He then applied to one of the sheriffs, requesting that the sentence of the law might be first executed on lord Balmerino: but this, he was told could not be complied with, as his name stood first in the warrant of execution. Hereupon he took leave of his friends; said he should not address the people on the occasion; and having desired Dr. Foster to attend him to the last fatal moment, ascended the steps of the scaffold. So extreme was his penitence, so pungent his sorrow, that the surrounding multitude no sooner saw him, than they burst into tears.

On the sight of the coffin, block, and hatchet, he turned about to a friend, and said "This is terrible!" He then kneeled down, and prayed devoutly: and the whole of his conduct so affected the executioner that he fainted; but was recovered by the help of a glass of wine. The man then entreated his lordship's pardon; when the latter bad him reassume his courage, and told him that when he had finished his devotions, he would drop his handkerchief, as a signal for the stroke.

His lordship's friends now assisted him in preparing for the dreadful fate that awaited him; but a considerable time was lost in tucking his hair, which was very long, under a night-cap. During this dreadful interval he seemed agitated with a thousand fears; his body was convulsed by the horrors of his mind; and when he knelt down to the block he laid his hands over it; a circumstance that again intimidated the executioner, who desired him to remove his hands, which was accordingly done; but now it was discovered that his waistcoat was in the way; on which he arose, and being assisted by his servant in taking it off, he again knelt down; and after a short time spent in prayer, he dropped his handkerchief; and his head, except a small piece of skin, was severed at one stroke, the head being received in a cloth of red baize, was put into the coffin with the body, and conveyed to the Tower.

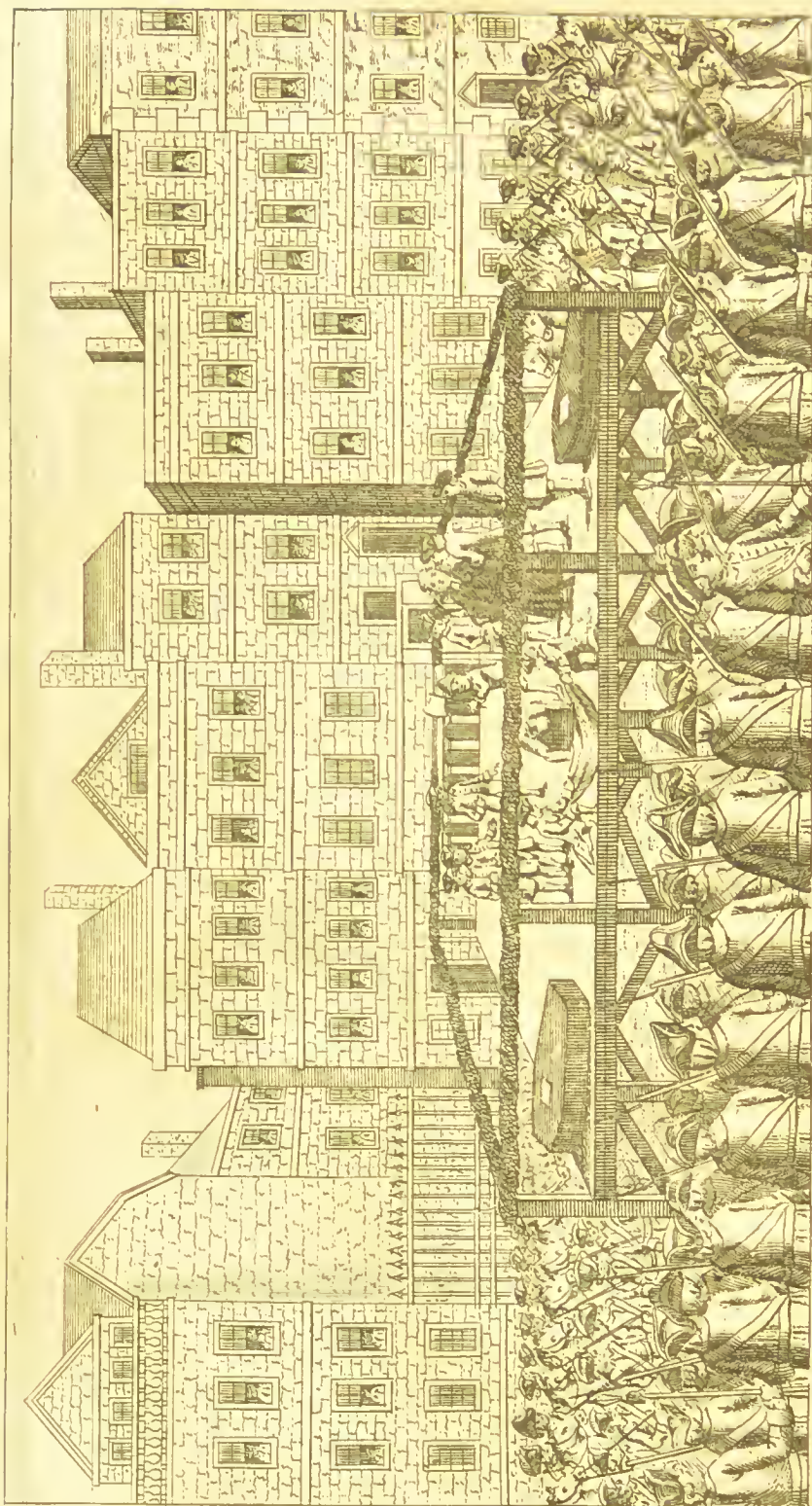
During great part of this solemn interval lord Balmerino exercised himself in devotion, and then conversed with his friends, with an astonishing degree of ease and fortitude. Every one present wept but himself; who seemed possessed with a conscious integrity of mind that supported him in this arduous trial.

Saw-dust being strewed over the scaffold, to hide the blood, the under sheriff attended lord Balmerino, when the latter, preventing what he was going to say, asked if lord Kilmarnock had suffered; and put some questions respecting the executioner.

His questions being answered, he said to his friends, "Gentlemen, I shall detain you no longer;" and having taken his leave of them with an air of great unconcern, walked to the  
scaf-







Valois sc

*The Execution of the Rebel Lords on Tower Hill!*

scaffold in so intrepid a manner as to astonish all the spectators.

Going up to the executioner, he took the axe from his hand, and having attentively regarded it, clapped him on the shoulder as an encouragement not to be fearful in the discharge of his office. Then going to the extremity of the scaffold, he enquired for the hearse, and desired that it might be drawn nearer; which was readily complied with.

Having thrown his coat, waistcoat, and neck-cloth on his coffin, he put on a flannel waistcoat, and taking out of his pocket a plaid night-cap, he put it on his head, and said "I will die like a Scotchman."

Having fitted his neck to the block, he spoke a short time to the executioner, and then addressed the spectators as follows; "Perhaps some persons may think my behaviour too bold, but remember, I now declare it is the effect of confidence in God, and a good conscience; and I should dissemble if I exhibited any sign of fear."

Having placed his head on the block, he stretched out his arms, and prayed in the following words: "O Lord, reward my friends, forgive my enemies, and receive my soul."

This said, he gave the signal for the stroke; but the executioner was so affected by the magnanimity of his behaviour, that he struck him three times before the head parted from the body. It was received in a piece of red baize, as lord Kilmarnock's had been; and a hearse having conveyed the deceased to the Tower, he was interred in the same grave with the marquis of Tullibardine, who died during his imprisonment.

The

The earl of Kilmarnock and lord Balmerino were executed on the 18th of April, 1746.

Lord Lovat was the last in the rank of peerage who suffered on account of the rebellion. He was a man of uncommon abilities, and refined education; was more than eighty years old at the time of his death, and had acted a more unaccountable part in life, than almost any other man: and perhaps it may be said with truth, that insincerity, and want of principle, were the distinguishing marks of his character.

The following, among other instances, will prove the extravagance of his conduct. Having addressed the heiress of Lovat in 1693, a marriage might have ensued, but that the lady was engaged to lord Salton's son. On this Lovat took some of his dependants to the house of that nobleman, and having caused a gibbet to be erected, swore he would hang the father and son, except all pretensions to the young lady were resigned.

This was complied with through terror, and even the contract of marriage given up; and he now intended to have seized the young lady's person; but her mother, a widow lady, having secreted her, he was determined on revenge; on which he went to the house of the mother, and taking a clergyman with him, and being attended by several armed ruffians, he compelled the old lady to marry one of the persons who came with him. This being done, he cut off her stays, and obliged her to go to bed; and he with his associates waited till the consummation of this forced marriage.

For this infamous transaction Lovat was tried as an accessory to the rape, and was capitally con-



convicted; but received a pardon from the ill-timed lenity of king William the third.

Going to France in 1698, he turned Papist, by which he acquired the good opinion of the abdicated king James the second, who employed him to raise recruits in Scotland; but he revealed the substance of his commission to the British ministry: which circumstance being discovered by some Scotch catholics, an account of it was transmitted to France; so that on his next visit to that country, in the year 1702, he was lodged in the Bastile, where he continued some years; but at length obtaining his liberty, he went to St. Omers, where he entered into the order of Jesuits.

Returning to Scotland on the demise of Queen Anne, he succeeded to the title of Lovat, to which a good fortune was annexed; but in the following year, when the pretender landed in Scotland, he for a while abetted his cause; but finding his interest decline, he raised a regiment in opposition to him. This latter part of his conduct coming to the knowledge of king George the first, Lovat was sent for to court, where he was highly carested.

At the time he was supporting the rebellion of 1745 with men and money, the lord president Forbes wrote to him, and conjured him in the most earnest manner to take a decisive and vigorous part in behalf of government: and Lovat answered him in such a manner, as seemed to imply an assent to all he urged; though at this very time the men he had sent to assist the rebels were commanded by his own son.

He was apprehended in his own house, some days after the battle of Culloden, by a party of dragoons: but being so infirm that he could not walk, he was carried in a horse-litter to Inverness, whence

whence he was sent in a landau to Edinburgh, under the escort of a party of dragoons.

Having been lodged one night in the castle, he was conveyed to London, and committed to the Tower, only two days before Kilmarnock and Balmerino suffered the dreadful sentence of the law.

Several of the witnesses whose presence was judged necessary on the trial of lord Lovat residing in the north of Scotland, it was thought proper to postpone it till the commencement of the following year; and he was accordingly brought to his trial before the house of peers in Westminster-hall on the 9th of March, 1747, lord chancellor Hardwick presiding on the solemn occasion.

On the first day of the trial lord Lovat objected to a witness, because he was his tenant; but his competency to give his deposition being allowed, after long arguments, he deposed that his lordship had been active in raising supplies for the pretender, who had made a descent on the kingdom in consequence of his advice.

This was the substance of the first day's proceedings; and a great part of the second was spent in debates respecting the admissibility of Mr. Murray, who had been secretary to the pretender, as an evidence. It was urged that his evidence could not be allowed, as he stood attainted; but the attorney general having read the record of the attainder, and produced the king's pardon, all farther objections fell to the ground.

On the following day Mr. Murray was examined, and proved that lord Lovat had assisted the rebels with men and money; and that he had commissioned two of his sons to cause his tenants to take arms in behalf of the pretender.

Lord

Lord Lovat's servants proved that the pretender had been assisted with money by his lordship : and on the fourth day several gentlemen from the highlands gave their testimony to the same purpose.

The evidence for the crown being summed up on the fifth day, lord Lovat was acquainted by the lord-high steward that he must prepare for his defence ; and, accordingly, on the sixth day, his lordship insisted that the parties who had given evidence against him were his enemies, and that they had been induced to give their testimony by threats or subornation\* ; and he endeavoured to support his allegations by the depositions of two highlanders ; but what they said had little influence against the concurrent testimony of the other witnesses.

The peers being assembled in parliament on the seventh day, determined on their verdict, and having returned to Westminster-hall, the culprit was informed by the lord high steward, that he had been found guilty by his peers. To this Lovat said that he had been ill treated while under misfortunes ; and this he declared with so much acrimony, that the high-steward reproved him for the indecency of his behaviour, and then passed on him the sentence of the law.

After conviction lord Lovat behaved with uncommon chearfulness, appearing by no means intimidated at the fate that awaited him. His friends advising him to apply for the royal mercy, he declined it, saying that the remnant of his life was not worth asking for. He was always

VOL. III. No. 24.

R

chear-

---

\* This seems to be a contradiction, for if they were his enemies, it was not necessary either to threaten or suborn them.

cheerful in company; entertained his friends with stories, and applied many passages of the Greek and Roman history to his own case.

On the arrival of the warrant for his execution, lord Lovat read it, and pressing the gentleman who brought it to drink a bottle of wine with him, entertained him with such a number of stories as astonished the visitor, that his lordship should have such spirits on so solemn an occasion.

The major of the Tower enquiring after his health one morning, he said, "I am well sir; I am preparing myself for a place where hardly any majors go, and but few lieutenant-generals." Having procured a pillow to be placed at the foot of his bed, he frequently kneeled on it, to try how he should act his part at the fatal block; and, after some practice, thought himself sufficiently perfect to behave with propriety.

Waking about two in the morning on the day before his death, he prayed devoutly for some time, and then slept till near seven, when he was dressed by the assistance of the warder. This day he spent with his friends, conversing cheerfully both on public and private affairs. He was even jocose in a high degree, and told the barber who shaved him to be cautious not to cut his throat, which might baulk many persons of the expected fight on the following day. Having eaten a hearty supper, he desired that some veal might be roasted, that he might have some of it minced for his breakfast, being a dish of which he was extremely fond. He then smoked his pipe, and retired to rest.

Waking about three in the morning, he employed some time in devotion, and then reposing himself till five o'clock, he arose, and drank a



glass of wine and water, as he was accustomed to do every morning. He then employed himself about two hours in reading, which he could do without spectacles, notwithstanding his advanced age: for he had lived a life of temperance, and his eye-sight was uncommonly good.

He now conversed in his customary manner; exhibiting no sign of apprehension; and at eight o'clock sent his wig to the barber; and also desired the warder to purchase a purse, in which to put the money that he intended for the executioner; and he particularly desired that it might be a good one, lest the man should refuse it.

The warder bringing two purses, his lordship took one, which though he did not entirely approve of, he said he thought few persons would refuse it with ten guineas for its contents.

Having called for his breakfast of minced veal, he ate heartily of it, and drank some wine and water, to the health of his surrounding friends. The coffin, with his name and age, and decorated with ornaments proper to his rank, being placed on the scaffold, Mr. Sheriff Alsop went to the gate of the Tower at eleven o'clock, to demand the body. This intelligence being conveyed to lord Lovat, he requested a few minutes for his private devotions; in which being indulged, he returned chearfully, and said "Gentlemen, I am ready;" and having descended one pair of stairs, general Williamson requested him to repose himself a few minutes in his apartment.

Complying with this invitation, he staid about five minutes, behaved with the utmost politeness to the company, and having drank a glass of wine, got into the governor's coach, which conveyed him to the gate of the Tower, where he was received by the sheriffs. Being conducted to a

house near the scaffold; he told the sheriff "he might give the word of command when he pleased;" "for (added he) I have been long in the army, and know what it is to obey." Having drank some burnt brandy and bitters, he ascended the scaffold, and taking a survey of the surrounding multitude, he expressed his astonishment that such numbers could assemble to witness the decollation of so antient a head.

Observing a friend on the scaffold who appeared very desponding, he put his hand on his shoulder, and said, "Cheer up thy heart, man; I am not afraid, and why should'st thou?" Then giving the purse of gold to the executioner, he bad him act his part properly, saying, "If you do not, and I am able to rise again, I shall be much displeased with you."

He now sat down in a chair, and having repeated some sentimental lines from the classic authors, he stripped himself, and laid his head on the block. After a few minutes spent in devotion, he dropped his handkerchief; on which his head was cut off; and being received in a cloth of red baize, was put into the coffin with the body, and conveyed to the Tower in a hearse.

Immense crouds of spectators were on scaffolds on Tower-hill, to behold the final exit of this extraordinary man; but some of them paid dear for their curiosity; for, before he was brought out of the Tower, one of the scaffolds broke down; by which several persons were killed on the spot, and a great number had their bones broken, and were otherwise terribly bruised; to the distress of many families, and the total ruin of others. Thus was this man, whose life had been a scene of tyranny, and perfidious duplicity, the occasion of  
injuring

injuring many others, almost in the moment of his death.

Lord Lovat was beheaded on the 9th of April, 1747.

Thus having recited an account of such peers as suffered for the share they took in the rebellion; we shall give a complete narrative of the fate of those of inferior rank, whose lives were sacrificed to their ill-placed attachment to a hopeless cause.

CHARLES RATCLIFFE, Esq; (brother of lord Derwentwater, who suffered in 1716) having been taken prisoner at Preston, was conducted to London, where being tried and convicted, he was imprisoned in Newgate, but received repeated reprieves; and it was thought he would have been pardoned, in consideration of his youth. Being lodged in a room called the castle, he and thirteen other prisoners escaped to the debtors side of the prison, where the turnkey let them out, on a supposition that they were visitors to some of the unfortunate debtors.

Thus at large, Mr. Ratcliffe embarked for France, from whence he went to Rome, where he obtained a trifling pension from the pretender. After a residence of some years in Italy, he went to Paris, where he married the widow of lord Newburgh\*, by whom he had one son.

Coming to England in 1733. he lived some time in London; but no notice was taken of him, though he made no secret of the place of his residence.

He went again abroad, but returning in 1735, made application for a pardon; but though this  
was

---

\* This lord Newburgh escaped from the Tower in 1716.

was refused, he still remained unmolested. Unsuccessful in this application, he went once more to France, where he lived in a retired manner till the commencement of the rebellion in 1745, when he embarked at Calais, bringing his son with him, with a view to have joined the pretender; but the vessel in which he sailed being taken by the Sheerness man of war, he was brought to Deal, whence being conveyed to London, he was committed to the Tower, where he remained till the rebellion was suppressed.

His son, having been born abroad, while his father denied his allegiance, was not considered as a subject of England, and was therefore exchanged on the first cartel for French prisoners.

Mr. Ratcliffe was brought up to the court of King's-Bench in Michaelmas term, 1746, and there received sentence of death on the record of his former conviction in 1716; but on account of the noble family from which he was descended, he was ordered to be beheaded, instead of being hanged\*.

A scaffold being erected on Little Tower-hill, the eighth of December was ordered for the day of execution; when the sheriffs, going to the Tower about eleven o'clock, demanded the body; on which general Williamson, the deputy-governor, went to Mr. Ratcliffe's room, where he found him in a scarlet coat, faced with black velvet, and trimmed with gold, and a waistcoat laced

---

\* One would imagine that few people would thank the government for such a favour as this; yet the late lord Ferrers requested it in vain. To common apprehensions suspension seems an easier death than decollation.



laced with gold. The prisoner received the governor and his attendants politely, and after drinking a glass of wine with them, got into a landau, which conveyed him to the back gate of the Tower, where the sheriffs received him; and he then went into a mourning coach, being attended by a priest of the Roman Catholic persuasion.

Near the scaffold was erected a small room hung with black, in which he employed about half an hour in private devotion, and then ascended the scaffold. He had several friends, as well as the priest to attend him, and he behaved in a manner remarkably resigned to his fate. After speaking to the executioner, he gave him a purse of guineas; and then kneeling on the scaffold, and his friends likewise kneeling, he prayed devoutly for a few minutes; when rising up, he put on a night-cap, threw off his cloaths, placed his head on the block, and suffered the sentence of the law.

The body being carried back to the Tower, remained there two days, and was then interred in a vault in the church of St. Giles in the fields, where his brother, the earl of Derwentwater, had been deposited.

An act of parliament having passed in the year 1746, "to empower the king to remove the  
" cause of action against persons apprehended  
" for high-treason, out of the county where the  
" crime was committed;" his majesty granted to the judges commissions to try, in the counties of Cumberland, York, and Surrey, such rebels as had been committed to the prisons of those counties respectively.

On the 23d of June, 1746, at the sessions held at St. Margaret's Hill for the trial of the rebels, Colonel FRANCIS TOWNLEY, of the Manchester regi-

regiment, was indicted for the part he had acted in the rebellion. His council insisted that he was not a subject of Great Britain, being an officer in the service of the French king; but this the judges observed was a circumstance against him, as he had quitted his native country, and engaged in the French service without the consent of his lawful sovereign. Some other motions equally frivolous being over-ruled, he was capitally convicted, and adjudged to die.

Colonel Townley was the son of ——— Townley, Esq; of Townley-Hall in Lancashire, who was tried for the share he had in the rebellion of 1715, but acquitted.

Young Mr. Townley being educated in the rigid principles of popery, went abroad early in life, and entering into the service of France, distinguished himself in the military line, particularly at the siege of Phillipbourg.

Coming to England in 1742, he associated chiefly with those of the Catholic religion; and it was thought that he induced many of them to take an active part in the rebellion. When the pretender came to Manchester, Townley offered his services; which being accepted, he was commissioned to raise a regiment, which he soon completed; but being made a prisoner at Carlisle, he was conducted to London.

After conviction he behaved in the most reserved manner, scarcely speaking to any one but his brethren in misfortune.

JOHN BARWICK, formerly a linen-draper of Manchester, but afterwards a lieutenant, was the next person tried and convicted. This man was distinguished by living elegantly in prison; and it was remarked that the prisoners in general were amply supplied with the necessaries of life, by the bounty

bounty of their friends. It is asserted that they expected to be treated as prisoners of war; but it is not credible that they could be so totally ignorant of the laws of nations, or their duty as subjects.

JAMES DAWSON, a native of Lancashire, was genteelly born, and liberally educated at St. John's College in Cambridge. After leaving the University, he repaired to Manchester, where the pretender gave him a captain's commission. Dawson had paid his addresses to a young lady, to whom he was to have been married immediately after his enlargement, if the solicitations that were made for his pardon had been attended with the desired effect.

The circumstance of his love, and the melancholy that was produced by his death, is so admirably touched in the following ballad of Shennstone, that Dawson's story will probably be remembered and regretted when that of the rest of the rebels will be forgotten. A man must have lost all feeling who can read this beautiful ballad, equally remarkable for its elegance, its simplicity, and its truth, and remain unaffected.

### JEMMY DAWSON; a BALLAD.

COME listen to my mournful tale,  
Ye tender hearts and lovers dear;  
Nor will you scorn to heave a sigh,  
Nor will you blush to shed a tear.

And thou, dear Kitty, peerless maid,  
Do thou a pensive ear incline,  
For thou canst weep at ev'ry woe,  
And pity every plaint, but mine.

Young Dawson was a gallant youth,  
 A brighter never trod the plain;  
 And well he lov'd one charming maid,  
 And dearly was he lov'd again.

One tender maid she lov'd him dear,  
 Of gentle blood the damsel came,  
 And faultless was her beauteous form,  
 And spotless was her virgin fame.

But, curse on party's hateful strife,  
 That led the faithful youth astray,  
 The day the rebel clans appear'd:  
 Oh had he never seen that day!

Their colours and their sash he wore,  
 And in their fatal dress was found;  
 And now he must that death endure,  
 Which gives the brave the keenest wound.

How pale was then his true-love's cheek,  
 When Jemmy's sentence reach'd her ear?  
 For never yet did alpine snows,  
 So pale, nor yet so chill appear.

Yet might sweet mercy find a place  
 And bring relief to Jemmy's woes,  
 O George, without a pray'r for thee,  
 My orizons should never close.

The gracious prince that gives him life,  
 Would crown a never-dying flame;  
 And ev'ry tender babe I bore  
 Should learn to lip the giver's name.

But tho', dear youth, thou should'st be dragg'd  
 To yonder ignominious tree,

Thou



Thou shalt not want a faithful friend  
To share thy bitter fate with thee.

O then her mourning coach was call'd;  
The sledge mov'd slowly on before;  
Tho' borne in a triumphal car,  
She had not lov'd her fav'rite more.

She follow'd him, prepar'd to view  
The terrible behests of law;  
And the last scene of Jemmy's woes  
With calm and stedfast eye she saw.

Distorted was that blooming face,  
Which she had fondly lov'd so long:  
And stifled was that tuneful breath,  
Which in her praise had sweetly sung:

And fever'd was that beauteous neck,  
Round which her arms had fondly clos'd;  
And mangled was that beauteous breast,  
On which her love-sick head repos'd:

And ravish'd was that constant heart,  
She did to ev'ry heart prefer;  
For tho' it could his king forget,  
'Twas true and loyal still to her.

Amidst those unrelenting flames  
She bore this constant heart to see;  
But when 'twas moulder'd into dust,  
Yet, yet, she cry'd, I'll follow thee.

My death, my death can only shew  
The pure and lasting love I bore;  
Accept, O Heav'n, of woes like ours,  
And let us, let us weep no more,

The dismal scene was o'er and past,  
 The lover's mournful hearse retir'd ;  
 The maid drew back her languid head,  
 And, sighing forth his name, expir'd.

Tho' justice ever must prevail,  
 The tear my Kitty sheds is due ;  
 For seldom shall we hear a tale  
 So sad, so tender, and so true.

Another of the parties tried on this occasion was GEORGE FLETCHER, who had been a linen-draper at Stratford near Manchester, managing the business for his mother, who on her knees persuaded him not to engage with the rebels ; and offered him 1000*l.* on the condition that he would not embark in so desperate an enterprize : but he was deaf to her entreaties, and so ambitious of serving the pretender, that he gave his secretary, Mr. Murray, fifty pounds for a captain's commission. Fletcher having induced one Maddox to enlist, the man would have deserted, but he produced a handful of gold, and said he should not want money if he would fight for the pretender ; which induced Maddox to keep his station.

THOMAS SYDDALL was a barber at Manchester, and had supported a wife and five children in a creditable way, till the rebel troops arrived at that place. His father was hanged at Manchester for his concern in the rebellion of 1715, and his head had remained on the Market-Cross till the year 1745, when it was taken down on the arrival of the pretender. Syddall, who was a rigid Roman Catholic, now vowed revenge against the protestants, with a view to accomplish which he obtained an ensign's commission from the pretender's secretary.

The

The attachment of this man to the pretender was so extraordinary, that almost in the last moment of his life he prayed that his children might be ready to assert the same at the hazard of their lives.

THOMAS CHADWICK was tried immediately after Syddall. He was a tallow-chandler, but had not long followed business; for associating with persons of Jacobitical principles, he accepted the commission of lieutenant in the pretender's service; and he was tried for, and convicted of acting in that capacity. Chadwick appeared to have great resolution; and told his friends that death, in any shape, had no terrors for him: but his courage forsook him, and he seemed greatly agitated, on taking leave of his father the night before his execution.

THOMAS DEACON, the next person tried, was the son of a physician of eminence. His principles of loyalty being tainted by associating with Jacobites, he became zealous in the cause of the pretender; and his zeal was rewarded by the commission of lieutenant colonel in the Manchester regiment.

Mr. Deacon had declared his resolution of joining the rebels as soon as he heard they were in arms in Scotland; and when they arrived at Manchester he became one of their number. His two brothers likewise embarked in this fatal business: and one of them was sentenced to die with him: but being only sixteen years of age, he was happy enough to obtain a pardon.

The next convict on this melancholy occasion was ANDREW BLOOD, who had been steward to a gentleman in Yorkshire, of which county he was a native, and descended from a respectable family.

Quitting his service, he went to Manchester to join the rebels, and received a captain's commission. He pleaded guilty to the indictment, and received sentence with the utmost composure and resignation. The gentleman whom he had served as steward exerted his utmost influence to procure a pardon for him; but the culprit being told all endeavours were fruitless, expressed the utmost unconcern, and said he was willing to become a martyr for the cause he had abetted, adding, that he had prepared for death, having entertained no hope of pardon.

The next person brought to trial and conviction was DAVID MORGAN, Esq; of Monmouthshire. This man had been sent by his father to study law in the Temple; and practised a short time as a counsellor: but his father dying, he went to reside on his estate in the country. He was distinguished by the haughtiness of his temper, and a disposition to quarrel with his neighbours and servants.

Having met the rebels at Manchester, he advised the pretender to proceed immediately to London, assuring him that the whole force to oppose him did not exceed three thousand men. Had this advice been attended to, the rebellion might have been crushed much sooner than it was: for no doubt the people would have arisen as one man, to oppose the progress of the lawless insurgents.

The pretender having granted Morgan a warrant to search the houses in Manchester for arms, he did this in the strictest manner, and threatened with exemplary punishment all those who opposed him.

A colonel's commission was offered him; but he declined the acceptance of it, proposing rather



to give his advice than his personal assistance. When the rebels marched to Derby he quitted them; but being taken into custody, he was lodged in Chester castle, and thence conveyed to London: and conviction following commitment, he was sentenced to die with his associates.

After the sentence of the law was passed, the convicts declared that they had acted according to the dictates of their consciences, and would again act the same parts, if they were put to the trial. When the keeper informed them that the following day was ordered for their execution, they expressed a resignation to the will of God, embraced each other, and took an affectionate leave of their friends.

On the following morning they breakfasted together, and having conversed till near eleven o'clock, were conveyed from the New Goal, Southwark, to Kennington Common, on three sledges. The gibbet was surrounded by a party of the guards, and a block, and a pile of faggots were placed near it. The faggots were set on fire while the proper officers were removing the malefactors from the sledges.

After near an hour employed in acts of devotion, these unhappy men, having delivered to the sheriffs some papers expressive of their political sentiments, then underwent the sentence of the law. They had not hung above five minutes, when Townly was cut down, being yet alive, and his body being placed on the block, the executioner chopped off his head with a cleaver. His heart and bowels were then taken out and thrown into the fire; and the other parties being separately treated in the same manner, the executioner cried out "God save king George!"

The bodies were quartered, and delivered to the keeper of the New Goal, who buried them: the heads of some of the parties were sent to Carlisle and Manchester, where they were exposed; but those of Townly and Fletcher were fixed on Temple-Bar, where they remained till within these few years, when they fell down.

These victims to their rashness suffered on Kennington Common, on the 20th of July, 1746.

Three other persons suffered soon afterwards on the same spot, for similar offences; of which the following are such particulars as will be interesting to the reader.

DONALD M'DONALD had joined the pretender soon after he came to Scotland, and had received a captain's commission. He was educated by an uncle, who told him he would tarnish the glory of his ancestors, who had been warmly attached to the cause, if he failed to act with courage.

M'Donald was ever foremost where danger presented itself: he was greatly distinguished at the battle of Preston-pans, and joined with lord Nairn in taking possession of Perth: services that greatly recommended him to the pretender.

This man was exceedingly assiduous to learn the art of war, and made himself of so much consequence as to be entrusted with the command of two thousand men. The duke of Perth having ordered two men, who refused to enlist, to be shot, M'Donald complained to his uncle, who had likewise a command in the rebel army, of the injustice of this proceeding; but the uncle ordered the nephew into custody, and told him that he should be shot on the following day; and actually informed the pretender of what had passed; but M'Donald was only reprimanded, and  
dismissed.

dismissed, on promise of more cautious behaviour in future.

After his commitment to prison M'Donald frequently wished that he had been shot. Being advised to repent, he said it would be fruitless, and he had rather hear a tune on the sweet bag-pipes that used to play before the army. He often told the keepers of the prison, that "if they would knock off his fetters, and give him a pair of bag-pipes, he would treat them with a highland dance."

He said, he thought the pretender's service very honourable when he first engaged in it, which he would never have done if he had thought him so ill provided for the expedition. He likewise expressed the utmost resentment against the French king, for not supplying them with succours.

JAMES NICHOLSON had been educated in principles averse to those of the abettors of the house of Stewart, but had been fatally prevailed on to change his political sentiments by some Jacobites, who frequented a Coffee-house which he kept at Leith with great reputation for a considerable time.

Having accepted a lieutenant's commission on the arrival of the rebels at Edinburgh, he proceeded with them as far as Derby; but when they returned to Carlisle, he was taken into custody, and sent with the other prisoners to London.

After conviction he was visited by his wife and children, which afforded a scene of distress that is not to be described. He now lamented the miseries that he had brought on his family; but his penitence came too late!

The county of Bamff in Scotland gave birth to WALTER OGILVIE, who was brought up a Protestant, and taught the duty of allegiance to the illustrious house of Brunswick; but some of his asso-

ciates having contaminated his principles, he went to lord Lewis Gordon, and joined the division of rebels under his command.

Ogilvie's father represented to him the rashness and impracticability of the scheme in which he was about to engage: but the young man said he was persuaded of its justice; and that the pretender had a right to his best services.

After conviction these unfortunate men behaved for some time with great indifference; but on the nearer approach of death they grew more serious: On the morning of their execution, having been visited by some friends, they were drawn on a sledge to Kennington Common, where they were turned off as soon as their devotions were ended; and after hanging about a quarter of an hour, they were cut down, their heads cut off, their bowels taken out and burnt, and their bodies conveyed to the New Goal, Southwark; and on the following day they were interred in one grave, in the new burial ground belonging to the parish of Bloomsbury.

These unfortunate men suffered at Kennington Common on the 22d of August, 1746.

ALEXANDER M'GRUTHER, a lieutenant in the duke of Perth's regiment, and who had been very active among the rebels, was condemned with the three parties above-mentioned; but he had the happiness to obtain a reprieve through the interest of his friends.

Many other of the prisoners tried and convicted in Surrey were reprieved, as proper objects of the royal mercy; and the assizes for that county being ended, the Judges, who were furnished with a special commission, proceeded to Carlisle, to try those confined in the castle of that city, the number of whom was no less than three hundred and seventy.





*Execution of the rebels on Kennington Common,  
in the Year 1746.*



Orders were given that nineteen out of twenty of these should be transported, and only the twentieth man tried for his life; and that the chance of trial should be determined by lot; but many of them refused to accept these merciful terms.

Bills of indictment having been found against them, they were informed that council and solicitors would be allowed them without expence; and were told that the clerk of the peace was commissioned to grant subpœnas for such witnesses as they thought might be of service to them. This being done, the judges proceeded to York castle, to try those there confined; and adjourned the assizes at Carlisle till the ninth of September, that the accused parties might have time to make a proper defence.

In the mean time seventy were condemned of those confined at York, the most remarkable of whom was JOHN HAMILTON, Esq; who had been appointed governor of Carlisle, having joined the pretender after the battle of Preston Pans. On the first of November ten of the convicts were executed at York, and eleven more on the eighth of the same month; and four were ordered to suffer on the fifteenth; but three of these were reprieved.

The judges now returned to Carlisle; and as many of the witnesses on the behalf of the prisoners had come from Scotland, they refused to be sworn in the English manner, and at length they were sworn according to the custom of their own country.

Many of the prisoners pleaded guilty; and among those who stood the event of a trial, and were convicted, was a non-juring clergyman named Cappock, who had preached to the rebels at Carlisle and Manchester.

No less than ninety-one persons received sentence of death at Carlisle, several of whom were people of fortune, who had abandoned their better prospects in life, to take part in this desperate rebellion. Ten of them were hanged and quartered at Carlisle on the 18th of October, and ten more at Brampton in Cumberland on the 21st of the same month: but a number of them were transported, and several received an unconditional pardon.

Five other of the rebels, who had been tried in Surrey, suffered at Kennington Common on the 28th of the month above-mentioned; one of whom at the place of execution drank a health to the pretender.

In consequence of these convictions many estates were forfeited to the crown; but king George the Second ordered them to be sold, and the whole produce above twenty years purchase to be given to the orphans of those who had forfeited them. The rest is employed in establishing schools in the Highlands, and instructing the natives in useful arts.

Thus have we given an account of the progress and consequences of the rebellion in 1745; and it now only remains to make some remarks on the whole.

When we consider the admirable system of government which prevails in this country, it will seem astonishing that any persons should be rash enough to invade it, or weak enough to suppose they can invade it with success. Those who look back to the times of king John, and reflect on the conduct of the bold barons who wrested the great charter of freedom from the intentional tyrant, will plainly see that it cannot be an easy matter to deprive Britons of their birthright.

It



It is to the expulsion of king James the second, the elevation of king William to the throne, and the consequent act of settlement on the house of Hanover, that this country owes its emancipation from tyranny, and all the blessings resulting from a system of well-founded freedom: nor must the inhabitants of Great Britain expect these blessings longer than they are anxious to preserve them at the risk of their lives.

The act of union, which passed in the year 1707, as it made but one of what was before two kingdoms, ought to have made but one of what was deemed two separate interests. Englishmen and Scotchmen should consider themselves as brethren of one family; united in one mutual interest; bound by the same general laws, though varying in some particulars; and under the most sacred obligation to protect each other in every emergency that may threaten the welfare of either.

Happy will the time be when all odious national distinctions shall cease; and when the inhabitants of North and South Britain, forgetting all former animosities, shall hail each other, without exception, and on all occasions, as brothers, friends, and companions!



Account of HOSEA YOEELL, who was hanged  
at *Tyburn* for *Murder*.

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey in October 1747, Hosea Youell, and Jacob Lopez, were indicted for the murder of captain Johns, when the former was convicted, and the latter acquitted.

The

The story of this affair is as follows, Mr. Johns coming up Sandwich-court, Devonshire-square, between ten and eleven o'clock at night, met two men whom he believed to be Jews, who robbed him of his watch and money. Hearing some people coming towards him, he called out "Stop thief;" on which one of them returned, and gave him a stab in the body, of the depth of nine inches: as appeared by the deposition of the surgeon, who attended captain Johns at the Dolphin inn, Bishopsgate-street, and extracted a piece of the sword from his body.

Youell being taken into custody, alderman Rawlinson attended the wounded man, who positively charged Youell with being the murderer, and signed his charge, being in his perfect senses, but died within fifteen minutes afterwards.

The wounded man being asked how he could be so positive to Youell, said he knew him by the light from a lamp; and that he should know his voice. Youell being bid to turn round, slouch his hat, and say "D— your eyes," hesitated for a while; but at length complying, the captain said, "You are the man that stabbed me, I am positive of it."

A piece of a sword was found in the court where the captain was stabbed, which exactly tallied with the piece lodged in the body of the deceased; and it appeared that Youell had requested the city marshal to speak to the alderman, that he might be admitted an evidence; and averred, that the murder was not committed by himself, but by one Hart.

After conviction the prisoner said that he was only eighteen years of age, and born of Jewish parents, who lived in Creed-lane, Leadenhall-street. He was so illiterate that he could neither read He-  
brew

brew nor English. The ordinary of Newgate, representing to him the advantages of the Gospel over the Mosaic dispensation, he said that, as he was born and bred a Jew, he would die such.

He was attended by a person of his own persuasion, and at the place of execution stedfastly denied having been guilty of the murder. However, he earnestly advised young people to be cautious in the choice of their company; as it was by a neglect of that caution that he had come to a fatal end.

This malefactor was hanged at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1747.

To what we have before observed in our remarks on the crime of murder, nothing need on this occasion be added, but that the associating with bad company is the frequent fore-runner of every other vice. Young people cannot be too cautious in the selection of their associates; as on this circumstance frequently depends the whole happiness of their lives. Nothing is so contaminating to youth as vicious company :

From one rude boy that's us'd to mock  
They learn the wicked jest;  
One sickly sheep infects the flock,  
And poisons all the rest.



Account of GEORGE LANCASTER, who was  
hanged at *Tyburn* for *Forgery*.

**T**HIS offender was born in Hatton-garden, London, of respectable parents, who placed him with a reputable attorney, with whom he served

ved part of his clerkship in the most regular manner; but making very bad connexions, his master requested his parents to take him home, and send him to sea, as the most likely means to prevent his ruin.

The parents approving this hint, persuaded the son to sail as captain's clerk on board a ship in the royal navy; and he continued some years in this station.

He came to London when his ship was paid off, and having received a considerable sum of money, dissipated the whole in houses of ill fame. His father was now dead: but his mother, with a fondness very natural, but which perhaps contributed to his ruin, supplied his extravagancies till she was very much reduced in her circumstances; and in the mean time the son borrowed money in her name of any one who would trust him: but at length his character being lost, and his mother totally impoverished, he determined on the commission of the crime for which his life paid the forfeit.

A seaman, named Hugh Price, to whom thirty-six pounds were due for wages, died on board the *Dorchester* man of war, having made a will in favour of his wife and son, who lived near Whitehaven in Cumberland. Lancaster hearing of the death of Price, forged a will purporting to be his, and carrying it to Doctors-commons, obtained a probate of the will, in consequence of his swearing that he was the son of the above-mentioned Price.

Being thus possessed of the probate, he went to a public-house, producing to the landlord a letter signed George Price, whom he averred was the son of the deceased, and had empowered him to dispose of his father's wages. The landlord, unacquainted with these matters, applied to a gentleman,



man, who told him he might safely purchase, if Lancaster could get the original ticket, and would lodge the probate in his hands as a collateral security.

The publican mentioning this to Lancaster, he said he would procure the original ticket from Portsmouth; but at the expiration of four days he produced a forged ticket, which the landlord, on the advice of a friend, purchased for twenty-seven pounds.

About three months after this transaction, a clerk of the Navy-office calling on the publican, he shewed him the ticket. He said he thought it a good one; but he would write to the agent at Portsmouth to enquire into the fact. The agent's answer was, that Hugh Price's ticket, in favour of his son George, was still in the office; so that it was evident that Lancaster's ticket must have been a forgery.

Hereupon the landlord went to the mother of the delinquent, and said that he would adjust the matter, if either she or her son could make good the deficiency; otherwise he would prosecute. The poor woman said she knew not where to find her son, and as to herself, it was out of her power.

The publican then went to an attorney, who advised him to make a debt of the affair, and arrest Lancaster for the money. This being done, he was committed to the Poultry Compter, where he was informed that he should be set at liberty, if his friends would make a subscription to raise the sum: but not having friends to assist him in this essential matter, the publican went to the Navy-office, where he informed the commissioners of the affair, and they ordered Lancaster to be prosecuted by their solicitor.

Lancaster's guilt being proved in the clearest manner on his trial, he was convicted, and received sentence of death. After conviction he entertained the most sanguine hopes of a reprieve, through the interest of his friends; but being disappointed in his expectation, he made the most serious preparation for the awful fate that awaited him.

He suffered at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1747, but was in too bad a state of health to make any address to the surrounding multitude, on the solemn occasion.

Serious and important reflections will very naturally arise from this case. Lancaster's associating with ill company led of course to his ruin; but this conduct leads, in almost every instance, to the same consequence; and we have had so many occasions to remark on the impropriety of associating with the wicked, that it will be needless to say more in this place.

What we would now make our remarks on is the conduct of the landlord, who would have forgiven the criminal if his loss could have been made good; thus proving that he had a greater regard to his own interest, than to the enforcement of the laws of the land. Public justice appeared in his eyes as of less consequence than private property: and we are fearful that there are but too many of the same selfish disposition.

We would wish these people to consider that the man who prosecutes a felon merely through revenge, or with the single view of recovering his lost property, without regard to the public welfare, is not himself two degrees honestier than the thief. The laws were made for the general good, and to this end they should always be directed: the defence of private property is included in that of the public;

public; and if every one would exert himself for the general welfare, that of individuals would be effectually promoted.

Happy should we think ourselves to impress these liberal sentiments on the mind of every reader, assured that they would tend to advance the happiness of the community at large!



Account of WILLIAM WHURRIER, who was  
hanged at *Tyburn* for Murder.

**T**HIS man was a native of Morpeth in Northumberland, and brought up as a husbandman; but having enlisted as a soldier, in general Cope's regiment, he served five years and a half in Flanders: but some horses being wanted for the use of the army, he and another man were sent to England to purchase them.

On the 11th of February, 1748, Whurrier and his companion walking over Finchley Common towards Barnet, the latter being wearied, agreed with a post-boy who went by with a led horse, to permit him to ride to Barnet, leaving Whurrier at an ale-house on the road.

Whurrier having drunk freely, met with a woman who appeared to be his country-woman, and with her he continued drinking till both of them were intoxicated, when they proceeded together towards Barnet; but they were followed by some sailors, one of whom insulted Whurrier, telling him that he had no business with the woman.

Whurrier suspecting there was a design to injure him, asked the woman if she had any connexion



with those men. She said she had not: but in the mean time the other sailors coming up, said they came to rescue the woman; on which Whurrier drew his sword; but returned it into the scabbard without annoying any one.

A soldier riding by at this instant, Whurrier told him that the sailors had ill-treated him, and begged his assistance, on which the soldier getting off his horse, the sailors ran away, and Whurrier pursuing them, overtook the first that had assaulted him, and drawing his sword, cut him in such a manner that he was carried in a hopeless condition to a house in the neighbourhood, where he languished till the Sunday following, and then died.

It appeared by the testimony of a surgeon that the deceased had received a cut across the skull, as if done with a butcher's chopper, so that the brains lay open; besides a variety of other wounds.

Whurrier being taken into custody for the commission of this murder, was brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey; and being capitally convicted on the clearest evidence, was sentenced to die.

After conviction he said he thought there was a combination between the woman he had met with and the sailors; and a day or two before he suffered, he procured the following paper to be published, which he called "Whurrier's Declaration."

"This is to let the world know that I have lived  
 "in good credit, and have served his Majesty eight  
 "years and two months. In the time of my ser-  
 "vice I have stood six campaigns, and always ob-  
 "eyed all lawful commands: I have been in three  
 "battles, and at Bergen-op-zoom, during the time  
 "it



“ it was besieged. The first battle was at Dettingen,  
 “ June 1743, when his majesty headed his army :  
 “ the second was in the year 1745, April 30, at  
 “ Fontenoy; the third was at Luckland, by siege;  
 “ besides several skirmishes, and other great dan-  
 “ gers. I had rather it had been my fate to have  
 “ died in the field of battle, where I have seen  
 “ many thousands wallowing in their blood, than  
 “ to come to such disgrace: but, alas, I have escap-  
 “ ed all these dangers to come to this unhappy  
 “ fate, to suffer at Tyburn; and afterwards to hang  
 “ in chains on a gibbet, which last is the nearest  
 “ concern to me; and I cannot help expressing, that  
 “ it would be more beneficial to the public to em-  
 “ ploy blacksmiths to make breast-plates for the  
 “ soldiers, than irons to inclose their bodies to be  
 “ exposed to the fowls of the air.

“ I have been a true subject and faithful servant,  
 “ as is well known to the officers of the regiment  
 “ to which I belonged. If I had been a pick-  
 “ pocket, or a thief, I should have suffered much  
 “ more deservedly, in my own opinion, than I now  
 “ do; for what I did was in my own defence: I  
 “ was upon the king’s duty, and was assaulted by  
 “ the men in sailors habits, who gave me so many  
 “ hard blows, as well as so much bad language,  
 “ that I could no longer bear it, and was obliged  
 “ to draw my sword in my own defence; and being  
 “ in too great a passion, as well as too much in li-  
 “ quor. I own I struck without mercy; as thinking  
 “ my life in danger, surrounded by four men, who  
 “ I thought designed to murder me: who or what  
 “ they were the Lord knows; it is plain they had  
 “ a false pass, as it was proved; and that they had  
 “ travelled but seven miles in nine days; but I  
 “ forgive them, as I hope forgiveness: and the  
 “ Lord

“ Lord have mercy on my soul, and the poor  
 “ man’s whom I killed.

“ WILLIAM WHURRIER.”

This malefactor was executed at Tyburn on the 7th of March, 1748, and his body afterwards hung in chains on Finchley Common.

The crime of this man seems to have arisen from a sense of injury inflamed by intoxication; and affords a strong lesson against the vice of drunkenness; a vice which, depriving a man of his reason, does but at the best level him with the brutes, and frequently reduces him many degrees below the rest of the animal creation.

Sobriety, if it be not itself a virtue, is naturally productive of a thousand. The mind that is calm and composed is fitted for the practice of all its duties; while, on the contrary, the devotees of debauchery are as useless to the publick, as they are obnoxious in themselves!



Particular Account of JOHN PARKES, who  
 was hanged at Tyburn for Forgery.

**T**HIS malefactor was a native of Wrexham in Denbighshire, and having been liberally educated, was apprenticed to a silversmith, with whom he served his time with a fair character, and then came to settle in London.

After a residence of more than twenty years, during which he worked as a journeyman, he became distressed in circumstances, which induced him to think of having recourse to the following method of supplying his necessities.

Having drawn a bill on Mr. Scott, a refiner in Love-lane, in the name of Mr. Brown of Lombard-street, for one hundred ounces of silver, he carried it to the house of the former, who not being at home, an apprentice read the draft, and asked if Parkes was a silversmith, and for whom he worked. He told him for Mr. Robinson in Bond-street. The apprentice said he was well acquainted with Mr. Robinson; but not knowing that his master dealt with Mr. Brown, begged that the bearer would call for an answer in the morning.

Parkes now went home to bed: but reflecting that he could imitate Mr. Robinson's hand-writing, with which he was perfectly acquainted, he wrote a letter in his name to Mr. Scott, informing him that he would be answerable for Brown's credit, if any doubt was entertained of it, and begging that no disappointment might happen.

Parkes had some idea of carrying this letter himself: but reflecting on the danger that might attend such a proceeding, he went into a public-house near Cripplegate, and calling for a pint of beer, sent a porter with the letter, telling him to inform Mr. Scott that he came from Mr. Robinson of Bond-street; and to add that the person who had been there the preceding day was taken ill. The porter was no sooner gone than Parkes paid for his beer, and told the woman of the house that if the porter brought any thing he was to leave it at the bar.

This being done, he followed the porter, and observing him go into Mr. Scott's, he stopped in a dark passage till he saw him come out, and when he was at a small distance from the house, he followed him, and receiving the bag of silver, paid him for the portorage, and decamped with all expedition,

pedition. He carried his ill-gotten booty to the house of an acquaintance near the Seven Dials, where he melted part of the silver, and spent the produce in the most extravagant manner.

Being reduced to poverty, he melted the remainder of the silver, and mixing it with some copper, he offered it for sale to a refiner, who threatened to apprehend him for presenting adulterated silver: but the offender pretending that he had no intention of fraud, the refiner paid him the amount of the silver.

Having thus escaped punishment for the first offence, he committed several other crimes of a similar nature; and at length that which cost him his life. Having forged a note in the name of Mr. Lamery, he carried it to a refiner in Oat-lane, named Froxhall, desiring that 200 ounces of silver might be delivered to the bearer. This note he delivered to Froxhall's apprentice, who carried it up stairs to his master, but first fastened the door, that Parkes might not escape. The boy coming down soon, desired Parkes to sit down, and his master would wait on him: He did so; and Mr. Froxhall coming down, asked who wanted the silver. Parkes said he did; on which he was desired to wait, and he should have it: but in the meantime the apprentice was sent for a constable, who conducted Parkes before the lord mayor, who committed him to Newgate.

Being indicted at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die. After conviction he exhibited signs of the utmost penitence, and sincerely lamented the past irregularities of his life. He behaved devoutly at the place of execution, and warned others to avoid those practices which brought him to a fatal end.

Parke



Parkes was hanged at Tyburn on the 14th of February, 1748.

The crime of forgery (of which this man's offence was a species) is so enormous in itself, and so destructive of the mercantile interest, that it ought to be discouraged in a trading nation, beyond almost any other crime; but as in the course of this work we have had repeated occasion to reprobate this species of defraud, and shall have further opportunities of exposing its pernicious tendency, we will not dwell longer on this article than just to observe, that the man who is rash enough to adventure on a forgery, dips his pen in blood; for conviction certainly follows the discovery; and an ignominious death is the undoubted consequence of such conviction.

---

Particulars relating to GEORGE COCK, who was convicted of privately stealing, and executed at Tyburn.

**T**HIS malefactor was born in the neighbourhood of Aldgate, and at a proper age apprenticed to a Peruke-maker in Spittal-fields; but he absconded before the time expressed in his indenture was expired, and his master judging him to be strongly disposed to disorderly and profligate courses, pursued no measures to induce his return.

Cock lived seven or eight years as errand-boy and porter to several tradesmen, none of whom had reason to suspect that he purloined their property: but he was held by them in no esteem, on account of his being frequently intoxicated, and

associating with people of dissolute principles. It is natural to suppose, that the abandoned company he kept encreased his inclination to a life of idleness, and proved the cause of his pursuing felonious courses for procuring the means of subsistence.

Having made pretensions of love to a maid servant in the neighbourhood of May-fair, she invited him to her master's house; he was punctual to the appointment, and during his stay, treacherously stole a silver spoon of about twelve shillings value.

Learning that a lady lived at Streatham, whose son was abroad, he went to her house, and informed her that he was lately arrived in England, and waited upon her by the desire of the young gentleman, to assure her of the continuance of his filial affection. He was invited to partake of the best provisions the house could afford, and entertained with great liberality, kindness, and respect. After he had sufficiently refreshed himself, and secreted a large silver spoon in his pocket, he departed, intending to direct his course towards the metropolis. The spoon being missed, two servants were dispatched in search of the thief, and overtaking him at about the distance of a mile from the house, they conducted him to a magistrate, who committed him to Bridewell as a vagrant, as the lady was averse to prosecuting him for the felony. Having remained in prison about three months, and been privately whipped, he was dismissed, after the justice by whom he was committed had pathetically represented to him the disgrace, danger, and iniquity, of seeking to obtain a livelihood by illegal practices.

Upon gaining information that the father of a young gentleman of Bartholomew-lane was abroad, he

he went to the house, and pretended to the youth that he was preparing to embark for the country where his father resided; saying, that as he was acquainted with the old gentleman, he should be happy to deliver any message or letter, or execute any commission with which the son might think proper to charge him. His reception here was not less hospitable than that he experienced at Streatham: and he did not take leave till he had conveyed a silver cup into his pocket, with which he got off undiscovered. He sold the cup, and expended the money it produced in the most extravagant manner.

Cock went to the house of the captain of a trading vessel in Ratcliff highway, whom he knew was at sea, expecting that he should be able to amuse his wife by some plausible pretences, and to obtain a booty before he left the house. He was informed that the captain's lady was not at home, but was invited into the house by her mother, who told him that she expected her daughter's return in a very short time. Being shewn into the kitchen, he asked the maid servant for some table-beer, and while she was gone to draw it, he secreted a large silver tankard; upon the maid's bringing the beer he drank heartily, and then, pretending that he had some business to transact which would not permit him to stay any longer, took leave, promising to return on the following day. He sold the tankard to a Jew.

He enquired of a servant-maid in Spiral fields whether there were not some women in that neighbourhood whose husbands were in foreign parts. The girl said the husbands of two or three of her master's neighbours were abroad, and asked the name of the person he desired to find. He said

he had forgot the name, but artfully added that he should remember it upon hearing it repeated; in consequence of which she mentioned some names, and upon his saying that one of them was that of the party he wanted, the girl directed him to the house where the wife of his supposed friend resided. He told the woman that he was lately arrived in England, and, by her husband's particular desire, called to inform her of his being in perfect health when he embarked. He formed some trifling excuse for occasioning the woman to leave the apartment, and soon after her return he went away, taking with him a pint silver tankard and two silver table spoons.

By the above and other villanies of a similar nature, he gained a maintenance for several years: but it will now appear, that, notwithstanding the art he employed in the pursuit of villany, he at length fell a just victim to the insulted laws of his country.

Cock went to two ladies in Soho-square in one day, under the pretext of delivering messages from their husbands, who had been several years resident in foreign parts; and was received by them in the most kind and hospitable manner. He had been gone but a short time, when one of the ladies missed some silver spoons; in consequence of which he was pursued and taken before a magistrate; and during his examination the other appeared, and, on oath, identified a silver tankard found in the prisoner's possession. He was committed to Newgate, and, at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, condemned to suffer death.

During his confinement in Newgate he shewed not the least remorse for his past offences, nor employed any part of the short time he had to exist in  
making



making the necessary preparation for the awful change he was about to experience, but flattered himself in the expectation of being reprieved. However, after learning that he was ordered for execution, he, in some degree, corrected the irregularity of his behaviour; but still his conduct was by no means such as might have been expected from a man in his dreadful situation.

He was almost wholly regardless of the devotional exercises at the place of execution; and refused to address the populace, though urged to it by the ordinary.

This offender was executed at Tyburn on the 13th of June 1748.

At an early time of life Cock manifested a strong propensity to vicious courses; but it does not thence follow that he was irreclaimable. When he absconded during his apprenticeship, it became a duty incumbent on his master to pursue every possible means for inducing his return; for by exerting a lawful authority over him, or by the more gentle method of appealing to his reason, representing the ill consequences naturally resulting from dissolute courses, and the certain happiness attending a life regulated by the dictates of virtue, it is probable that he might have effected an entire reformation in his conduct, and have become a worthy member of society. It is, however, beyond dispute that the master was deserving very severe reprehension, for shamefully neglecting all endeavours to avert the ruin of a youth committed entirely to his protection. When a man takes an apprentice, let him consider that he has a more important duty to fulfil than that of merely instructing him in the method of earning a livelihood; that he becomes the guardian of his morals, and that he must incur a heavy weight of guilt

guilt if he suffers them to be corrupted through his inattention or example.

In robbing the house to which he was invited by the woman to whom he had made a declaration of love, this offender added to a felonious act circumstances of a most aggravating nature; he violated the faith he had solemnly sworn to preserve, and subjected an innocent person to the suspicion of a crime which has been seldom known to be followed by a punishment less severe than death.\*

It is shocking to humanity to reflect on the unprepared manner in which Cock parted with mortal existence! He flattered himself with the hope of a pardon, and perhaps thought that repentance unnecessary which, upon the nearer approach of his fate, he could not hope would prove effectual. But it should be remembered that the most atrocious sinner is commanded not to despair of forgiveness, and that the supplications of the sincere penitent will ever prove acceptable to that Almighty Power who is equally the God of justice and mercy.

An account of JOHN LANCASTER, who was executed for House-breaking.

**T**HE parents of John Lancaster were poor but honest people, who put him to school to be instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and,

\* We have already observed that but few instances are known of the royal mercy having been extended to persons convicted of having robbed their masters or mistresses.

when

when about fourteen years of age, apprenticed him to a velvet-weaver, who, as well as his parents, lived in Whitechapel.

After the term of his servitude had expired, he for some time followed his trade as a journeyman. He was naturally inclined to vicious practices, and constantly associated with the most profligate company. He was known to have committed several offences against the laws, for one of which, however, he was apprehended and secured in Newgate, where he contracted an acquaintance with a man named Lewis. They were both acquitted in the same sessions, Lewis in defect of evidence, and Lancaster because no prosecutor appeared.

They went together to Rumford, predetermined to obtain money by violence. At Stratford they stopped a gentleman and robbed him of his watch, a guinea, and some silver. Their success in this attempt giving them a greater flow of spirits, Lewis (who had long been a notorious thief) said, "Come along with me, my boy, and we shall soon get money enough to live like gentlemen;" and they agreed to seek no means of support but that dangerous and unjustifiable one of making depredations on the public.

They now determined to go to Smithfield, it being the time of Bartholomew-fair, and they met there a boy of their own iniquitous profession, who, being acquainted with them, produced a silver mug, which he informed them he had stolen, at the same time offering to allow them a share of the booty. Leaving the fair, they went to Duke's-place, in order to sell the mug to a Jew named Levi Chitty; but he not being at home, they adjourned to a neighbouring almshouse, to wait till his return: but they had not been long there before Lancaster broke open a drawer,

drawer, and from thence stole several valuable articles. They now paid for the beer they had drunk, and escaped without suspicion. Having disposed of their booty, Lancaster and Lewis determined to divide the whole produce, in exclusion of the boy who had stolen the silver mug, and therefore they sent him to a public-house in Bishopsgate-street, where they promised to meet him, but with a resolution to forfeit their word.

On the following day they stole a quantity of brass candlesticks, which they sold for fifty shillings to the Jew, who told them that he would not have given so high a price but that he was desirous of encouraging them to steal articles of greater value.

They made a booty of a number of silk handkerchiefs, and the money received for them from the Jew they spent in the company of a number of prostitutes, among whom was Sarah Cock, the widow of George Cock, whose memoirs we have already recorded.

Lancaster, Lewis, and Sarah Cock, went the following evening to the Royal Exchange, where they picked the pockets of several passengers, of watches, pocket-books, purses of money, and other property.

They frequented all places of public resort: and during divine service on a Sunday evening at the Foundery near Moorfields, they picked the pockets of several of the congregation. On their return from the place of worship they came to the house of a velvet-weaver; and Lancaster knowing him to be reputed as a man of considerable property, it was determined to break open and rob the house. Having effected an entrance, they secured a quantity of plate, and then went into the warehouse, whence they stole velvet to the amount of more than an hundred pounds. Having obtained this considerable booty,  
they



they went to Sarah Cock, and giving her the velvet, adjourned to an alehouse in Houndsditch, to wait till she had disposed of it to the Jew.

The sum Cock demanded for the velvet the Jew said was more than he could afford to give, as the colour was very indifferent, and he should be put to expence in sending it to Holland, where all his stolen goods were exported for sale. During their conversation they were observed by a weaver and a constable, who suspecting the velvet to have been stolen, the woman was interrogated as to the manner of its coming into her possession. She acknowledged having received the property from Lancaster and Lewis, and mentioned the house where they were then waiting; in consequence of which, they were both apprehended, and secured in Newgate.

Lewis being admitted an evidence for the crown, Lancaster was convicted and sentenced to die. While under sentence of death, the ordinary endeavoured to give him a proper idea of his duty to his Creator; but to the very moment of his death he obstinately persisted in a refusal to make what atonement was yet in his power for the many offences he had committed.

On the 24th of September, 1748, John Lancaster was executed at Tyburn.

Lancaster was bred to a business that would have procured him a comfortable livelihood: but instead of supporting himself in a reputable manner, he indulged a disposition to indolence and a fondness for the company of dissolute people, which led him to transgress the laws whereby he was doomed to a violent and ignominious death. We shall conclude in the words of the Rambler, "He that does his

“ ed from him that does nothing. Whatever buſies  
 “ the mind without corrupting it, has at leaſt this  
 “ uſe, that it reſcues the day from idleneſs; and  
 “ he that is never idle will not often be vicious.”

---

Account of the numerous Exploits of THOMAS THOMPSON, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for *Horſe-Stealing*.

THE parents of this offender lived at Otley in Yorkſhire: his father dying, his mother and a numerous family were left in very indigent circumſtances. Thomas being arrived at a proper age, the pariſh-officers propoſed binding him apprentice: but he declined the offer, ſaying he ſhould prefer going to ſea with a captain who was come into the country, to viſit his mother and other relations. He accompanied the captain to Durham; and the maſter of the poſt-houſe in that city, thinking him an active and promiſing youth, hired him to wait upon his customers three days in a week, and to ride poſt on the others. During the three years that he remained in this ſtation, he was guilty of ſtealing money out of letters; and of ſeveral other acts of delinquency; of which, however, he was not ſuſpected till ſome time after he had quitted his maſter's ſervice.

From Durham he went to Otley, but not being able to procure employment there, he proceeded to Rippon, where he was employed as a waiter at the ſign of the King's-head. In about three months he robbed his maſter of thirteen pounds, and absconded. Going again to the place of his nativity, he learnt that an aunt lately deceaſed had bequeath-  
 ed

ed him twelve pounds; and having received the legacy, and purchased some new apparel, set out for London, where in a short time he spent all his money in disorderly houses among women of ill-fame. Being in circumstances of distress, he made application for relief to a relation, who behaved to him with great tenderness and generosity; notwithstanding which he availed himself of an opportunity of robbing his benefactor of two silver spoons.

He offered the spoons for sale to a silversmith near Charing-cross; but his honesty being suspected, a messenger was dispatched to inquire whether he lived at the place he had mentioned to the shop-keeper. Before the messenger's return, Thompson effected an escape; and it appeared that he had given a false direction. In a few days he was met near Exeter-change by the silversmith, who insisted upon his going home with him; but being a man of an easy disposition, he was prevailed upon by the entreaties of the young villain to favour his escape.

He now returned to Otley, and a dancing meeting being held there one evening, he made one of the company: at this place he prevailed upon a young woman to consent to his partaking of her bed: but she dismissed him upon discovering that he was destitute of money. Thus disappointed, he returned to the house where he lodged, and broke open a box, whence he stole fifteen shillings.

Early the next morning he stole a horse, and rode to his late master's at Durham, where he said he was employed to go to Newcastle on some business of importance, and should return on the following day. The innkeeper believed his tale, and upon his repeating his visit the next day, gave him a hearty welcome, and expressed much pleasure

at the seemingly favourable change in his situation. In the morning, however, the boy who had been with the mail to Darlington informed Thompson that the hue-and-cry was after him on suspicion of horse-stealing. In consequence of this intelligence he took the road for Scotland, and selling the stolen horse at Berwick upon Tweed, proceeded on foot to Cockburn's-path, and hiring a horse there, rode to Dunbar, where having slept one night, he set out for Edinburgh in a post-chaise.

At Edinburgh he pretended to be servant to a military officer, and persuaded a young woman, who was servant at the inn where he lodged, to admit him to a share of her bed. In the morning she discovered that her box had been broke open, and her money, besides two gold rings bequeathed her by a relation, stolen thereout. She accused Thompson with the robbery, and threatened a prosecution; but was appeased upon his restoring the effects.

His next expedition was to Perth, where he engaged himself as a servant to a military officer. His master being ordered into Yorkshire upon the recruiting service, Thompson accompanied him: but thinking it unsafe to remain in a part of the country, where he was well known, he stole a horse about eleven o'clock at night, and took the road to Nottingham. For this offence he was tried at the next assizes, and sentenced to die: but interest being made in his favour, he received a pardon on condition of transportation for fourteen years.

As he behaved in a remarkably decent and regular manner, the keeper of the prison granted him many indulgences, which he determined to seize an opportunity of making use of to his own advantage; and accordingly observing that on some occasion  
the



THO. THOMPSON—for *Horse-Stealing*. 173

the maid servant was entrusted with the keys, he seized her by surprise, and taking them from her recovered his liberty.

Upon his escape from prison he proceeded to London, where he enlisted into a regiment then abroad, and was conducted to the Savoy: but being soon after attacked by a fever, he was sent to an hospital. Being tolerably recovered in about two months, he deserted, and going to Rochester enlisted into a regiment lying in that city. About five weeks after his arrival in Rochester, he robbed the waiter of the house where he was quartered, and again deserting travelled to Hatfield in Hertfordshire, where he enlisted into a regiment, from which he also deserted in about six weeks. He now went to Chichester, and, having there entered into his majesty's service as a marine, was ordered on board a ship lying at Portsmouth. In about two months he was ordered on shore, and quartered in Chichester, where he robbed his lodgings, and having stolen a mare belonging to a farmer rode towards the metropolis.

The farmer having a value for the beast hastened to London, expecting that she would be exposed to sale in Smithfield. He put up at the White Bear in Basinghall street, and there found both his mare and the man who had stolen her. Thompson being taken before the lord mayor, was committed for trial at the Old Bailey, where he was convicted, and sentenced to die,

When he was confined in the cells of Newgate he appeared to be struck with a consciousness of the enormity of his guilt. He constantly attended divine service in the chapel; and when visited by the ordinary behaved in a manner that evinced the sincerity of his repentance. The calm devotion  
that

that he manifested when he received the sacrament seemed to prove that he had made his peace with his Creator.

At the place of execution he addressed the populace, exhorting them to live in strict obedience to the laws of their country, which were not to be transgressed with impunity.

This offender suffered at Tyburn on the 24th of October, 1748.

The case of Thompson exhibits a striking instance of the misery inseparably attendant upon guilt. He was continually flying from the pursuit of justice, but no change of place could ensure his safety. How different must have been the situation of this man from that of him who can say, "The law has no terrors for me; I dread it not as a tyrant, but reverence it as my protector!"

---

Account of JOHN YOUNG, who was executed for *Forgery* on the *Bank of Edinburgh*.

THE subject of this narrative was a descendant of a Protestant family at Belfast in Ireland. He received a liberal education, and at the usual time of life was put apprentice to a linen-draper residing in the town where he was born. Having served about three years, his master died; and as the widow declined business, he engaged as clerk to a wholesale dealer, whose goods were principally sent to the London market and Chester fair.

He remained with his employer till his arrival at manhood; but at length absconded, in consequence of one of his master's servant maids proving with child

child by him. He intended to settle in Dublin, but in his way to that city he met with a recruiting party belonging to the fourth regiment of foot, who urged him to drink till he became intoxicated, and then prevailed upon him to enlist.

Young being handsome in person, and accomplished in manners, was soon distinguished by his officers, who upon the first vacancy promoted him to be a serjeant. He marched from Tournay to join the regiment at Ghent in Flanders, and arrived but a few days preceding that on which was fought the terrible battle of Fontenoy. His behaviour in that action was greatly commended by his officers, who upon the return of the regiment to Ghent conferred upon him many instances of particular respect, and appointed him pay-master to the company to which he belonged.

The regiment in which Young was a serjeant was one of those ordered into Scotland for the purpose of suppressing the rebellion, which broke out soon after the battle of Fontenoy: but as a considerable loss of private men had been sustained, he was ordered to go upon the recruiting service to Chester, Manchester, Liverpool, and other places.

The recruits engaged by Young were paid the bounty-money without the least deduction, and he would not encourage them to spend any part of it in an extravagant or useless manner. In the space of four months he raised an hundred and fifty men; and it is presumed that the strict integrity of his conduct greatly promoted his success. Upon joining his regiment in Scotland, his officers advanced him to the post of serjeant-major, as a reward for his services. At the battle of Falkirk he put several of the rebels to death with his halbert, and behaved in other respects with remarkable intrepidity.

Upon

Upon the command of the army being assumed by the duke of Cumberland, the regiment to which Young belonged was ordered to march to the North. On account of the singular bravery they displayed at the battle of Culloden, and the great slaughter of men, this regiment was not ordered to return to Flanders, but permitted to remain in Scotland.

Upon tranquillity being re-established in the Highlands, the fourth regiment was appointed to perform duty in Edinburgh castle, and Young was dispatched to Bristol upon a recruiting expedition. He enlisted a considerable number of men at Bristol, and on his return to Scotland his officers complimented him with a handsome present. He was now sent to raise recruits in Yorkshire; and while at Sheffield in that county he engaged in a criminal intercourse with the wife of an inn-keeper, who, when he was preparing to depart, secreted property to a considerable amount, and followed her lover to Scotland. In a short time the inn-keeper came to Edinburgh in search of his wife, and complained in passionate terms of the cruel and treacherous treatment he had received. The nature of his connection with the woman being made public, Young appeared to be greatly disconcerted whenever he met with persons to whom he supposed the matter had been communicated: but in justice to his character we must observe that, so far from encouraging the woman to rob her husband, he was entirely ignorant of every thing relating to that matter till the husband's arrival in Edinburgh. Notwithstanding the above affair, Young was still held in much esteem by his officers; and in a short time the regiment was ordered to proceed to the North, and remained in the royal barracks at Inverness for about a twelvemonth.



Young being both serjeant-major and pay-master, many notes on the bank of Scotland necessarily came into his possession. While looking over some of these notes in the guard-room, a man named Parker, whom he had insisted in England, observed, that if he had a few tools he could engrave a plate for counterfeiting the notes of the Edinburgh bank. Young seemed to give but little attention to what the other said; but took him to an ale-house on the following day, and requested an explanation as to the manner of executing the scheme he had suggested. Parker informed him that, besides engraving an exact resemblance of the letters and figures, he could form a machine for printing such notes as should not be known from those of the Scotch bank.

In short, Young hired a private apartment for Parker, and supplied him with every utensil necessary for carrying the iniquitous plan into effect; and in a short time some counterfeit notes were produced, bearing a near resemblance to the real ones. Upwards of six months elapsed before the fraud was detected.

Orders being issued for the regiment to march to England, Young determined to procure cash for as many notes as possible previous to his departure from Inverness, knowing that in the Southern parts the forgery would be liable to immediate detection. With this view he applied to Mr. Gordon, who was concerned in the stocking manufactory at Aberdeen, and prevailed upon him to give sixty pounds in cash for notes expressing to be of the same value.

On his journey from Inverness Mr. Gordon parted with several of the notes at different places: but upon reaching Aberdeen, an advertisement in

the news-papers, in the name of the governors of the bank at Edinburgh, convinced him that he had been deceived. In consequence of this Mr. Gordon wrote to the sheriff of Inverness, who immediately took Young into custody, and found three hundred notes, and the copper-plate from which they had been printed, in his possession. Parker was admitted an evidence for the crown, and Young was removed to Edinburgh for trial before the high court of justiciary. After a trial that lasted a whole day, Young was pronounced to be guilty, and sentenced to suffer death.

While this malefactor was under confinement he would not consent to be visited by the clergy, though several, from motives of humanity, were desirous of using their endeavours to prepare him for eternity. He was informed by his fellow-prisoners that if he could procrastinate his execution beyond the appointed time, his life would of necessity be preserved; for that the crown law of Scotland declared that condemned prisoners should be executed between two and four o'clock on the days expressed. Being ignorant of the law, the unhappy man was amused by this story; and hoped to escape punishment by the following means: he secured the strong iron door of the room wherein he was confined in such a manner, that when the gaoler came in order to conduct him to the place of execution, he could not gain admittance.

Upwards of fifty carpenters, smiths, masons, and other artificers, were sent for to open a passage, but they all declined undertaking a business which they deemed to be impracticable; and they were unanimously of opinion that an aperture could not be made in the wall without endangering the whole fabric.

Matters being thus circumstanced, the lord provost and the rest of the magistrates assembled at the prison, and, after long debates, it was determined to form an opening to the room by breaking through the floor of that immediately above.

The opening being made, the prisoner leaped up, and seizing a musket from one of the city guards, declared with an oath that if any man attempted to molest him he would immediately dash out his brains. Six of the soldiers, however, suddenly descended, and one of them received a terrible blow from the prisoner; but he was immediately after secured by the other five men.

This malefactor was executed in the Grass-market at Edinburgh about six o'clock in the evening of the 19th of December, 1748.

Young was not addicted to indulge himself in expensive pleasures; and we may suppose that his pay as a private soldier, added to the emoluments he derived from the posts of serjeant major and paymaster to his regiment, would have proved equal to every reasonable gratification, especially in a country where the necessaries and conveniences of life were to be procured with moderate expence.

It must be acknowledged that the seduction of his master's maid-servant and the inn-keeper's wife were offences of a most heinous nature: but in other respects his character was unimpeached; he was highly respected by his officers, and universally esteemed by all who were acquainted with him; he was in the way to preferment, and would, in all probability, have made a distinguished figure in life, had he been contented to proceed by the gradual advances to fortune. But from the hint given by Parker he conceived the hopes of speedily amassing great riches, without considering that wealth unjustifiably

tifiably obtained must necessarily prove the source of affliction to the possessor.

We cannot but lament the obduracy of Young while under confinement in refusing to be attended by the clergy; and this part of his behaviour appears the more extraordinary when we consider that the liberal manner in which he was educated qualified him to judge of the indispensable necessity of a sincere repentance. This conduct can only be accounted for by supposing that he entertained the hope of escaping the vengeance of the law.

The case of this unfortunate man affords a lesson to convince us that, legislative institutions established for the security and good order of society, cannot be infringed with impunity: and be it added, that we cannot be too solicitous to repress those desires which cannot be gratified without a direct violation of this divine command: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods."



Singular Case of USHER GAHAGAN, and  
TERENCE CONNER, who were hanged at  
*Tyburn for High-Treason.*

THE county of Westmeath in Ireland gave birth to Usher Gahagan, who having by the indulgence of his parents received the foundation of a liberal education, was sent to Trinity college in Dublin, whence he was removed to one of the inns of court, in the hope of promoting him in some of the law departments, in which several of his relations had been particularly successful.

He



He had been instructed by his parents in the Protestant religion ; but falling into company with some priests of the Romish persuasion, they converted him to their faith, which was a principal obstacle to his future advancement in life ; for as no gentleman can be admitted a counsellor at law without taking the oaths of supremacy and abjuration ; and as Mr. Gahagan's new faith prevented his complying with these terms, he declined any farther prosecution of his legal studies.

His parents and other relations were greatly offended with his conduct ; and those who had particularly engaged themselves for the advancement of his fortunes forbade him to visit them, through indignation at the impropriety of his behaviour.

Thus reduced to an incapacity of supporting himself, he sought to relieve his circumstances by a matrimonial scheme ; and having addressed the daughter of a gentleman, he obtained her in marriage, and received a good fortune with her : but treating her with undeserved severity, she was compelled to return to the protection of her relations.

His conduct having now rendered him obnoxious to his acquaintance in Dublin, he quitted that city and repaired to London, with a view of supporting himself by his literary abilities.

On his arrival in the metropolis he made some connexions with the booksellers ; and undertook to translate Pope's Essay on Man into Latin ; but becoming connected with some women of abandoned character, he spent his time in a dissipated manner, and thus threw himself out of that employment which might have afforded him a decent support.

He now made an acquaintance with an Irishman, named Hugh Coffey, and they agreed on a plan for the diminution of the current coin. At this time  
Gahagan

Gahagan had a lodger named Conner (whose case will be seen in the sequel of this account); and it being agreed to receive him as a partner in this iniquitous scheme, they procured proper tools, and having collected a sum of money they filed it, and put it off; and procuring more, filed that also, and passed it in the same manner.

Having continued this business some months, during which they had saved a sum of money, they went to the bank, and got some Portugal pieces, under pretence that they were intended for exportation to Ireland. Thus they got money repeatedly at the bank; but at length one of the tellers suspecting their business, communicated his suspicion to the governors, who directed him to drink with them, as the proper method to discover who they were, and what was their employment.

In pursuance of this order he, on their next appearance, invited them to drink a glass of wine at the Crown tavern near Cripplegate; to which they readily agreed, and met him after the hours of office.

When the circulation of the glass had sufficiently warmed them, Gahagan, with a degree of weakness that is altogether astonishing, informed the teller that he acquired considerable sums by filing gold, and even proposed that he should become a partner with them. The gentleman seemed to accede to this proposal, and having learnt where they lodged, acquainted the cashiers of the bank with what had passed.

On the following day Coffey was apprehended; but Gahagan and Conner, being suspicious of the danger of their situation, retired to a public-house called Chalk Farm, a little way out of the road from London to Hampstead, where they carried  
their

their implements for filing; but Coffey having been admitted an evidence, it was not long before the place of their retreat was known; on which they were apprehended, and lodged in Newgate.

Terence Conner was a native of Ireland, and had received a most liberal education. It is recorded of him that he was so perfectly well read in the Roman history, as to be able to turn to any part of it, without the assistance of an index. He was by birth heir to a considerable fortune; but, his father dying without a proper adjustment of his affairs, some intricate law-suits were the consequence; so that the whole estate was only sufficient to discharge the demands of the gentlemen of the long robe.

Conner being reduced in circumstances, came to London, and, becoming acquainted with Gahagan and Coffey, was concerned in diminishing the coin, as abovementioned.

On their trial the evidence of Coffey was positive; and being supported by collateral proofs, the jury could not hesitate to find them guilty, and they received sentence of death.

After conviction, the behaviour of these unhappy men was strictly proper for their circumstances: they were extremely devout, and apparently resigned to their fate: but, anxious to evade the ignominy that attended them, they did not neglect those means which they thought might have the remotest tendency to their preservation; in consequence of which Mr. Gahagan wrote the former, and Mr. Conner the latter, of the following copies of verses.

These unhappy gentlemen suffered at Tyburn, on the 20th of February, 1749.

To

To his royal highness prince George, duke of Cornwall, and eldest son to his royal highness Frederick, prince of Wales, on his acting the part of Cato at Leicester house.

——— Tuus jam regnat Apollo. VIRGIL.

Hail! little Cato, taught to tread the stage,  
 Awful as Cato of the Roman age;  
 How vast the hopes of thy maturer years,  
 When in the boy such manly power appears!  
 Say, what spectator but did pleas'd admire  
 To hear the talk with sage Catonic fire!  
 A tender stripling of the royal blood  
 Breathing his country's liberty and good!  
 What rapture warm'd thy princely father's breast,  
 What joy thy scepter'd grandsire then confest,  
 Beholding thee, a Tyro from the school,  
 Foresaw the wisdom of thy future rule;  
 And Ned, thy little Juba, play his part,  
 Half form'd by nature in Bellona's art!

Well may we say, when royalty thus deigns  
 To grace the stage, that now Apollo reigns,  
 Whose tuneful handmaids should exult to see  
 Such regal honours done to them in thee:  
 Nor less thy shade, oh Addison, rejoice,  
 To find thy Cato made a Cato's choice.

Lo! Britain glories in thy years to trace  
 A Buskin'd hero of the Brunswick race;  
 Her stage now trod (tho' Collier, once thy scorn)  
 By destin'd monarchs, and high princes born:  
 Augusta too, some king's allotted bride,  
 Adorns her scenes, and gives an equal pride.  
 But oh! when thou shalt once thy scepter wield,  
 And Edward shine dread leader of the field;

When



When thou a Cato's, he a Juba's task  
Perform in real action, not in masque;  
At home, when thou'lt thy country's good enhance;  
While he abroad shall stem the pride of France;  
When thou'lt establish Europe's wish'd repose,  
Returning he the gates of Janus close;  
Then, then Britannia may with reason boast,  
Nor think her blood or treasure fruitless lost.

O, may she hail (but late) the glorious day,  
When exercising thus imperial sway,  
Of fire and grandfire's virtues thou posselt,  
Shall gently rule, and make thy people blest'd;  
When harrafs'd Europe, rescued from alarms,  
Shall owe her rest to George and Edward's arms.

Rous'd with the thought, and impotently vain,  
I now would launch into a nobler strain;  
But see! the captive Muse forbids the lays,  
Unfit to stretch the merit I would praise;  
Such, at whose heels no galling shackles ring,  
May raise the voice, and boldly touch the string;  
Cramp'd hand and foot, while I in gaol must stay,  
Dreading each hour the execution day:  
Pent up in den, opprobrious alms to crave,  
No Delphic cell, ye Gods! nor Sybil's cave;  
Nor will my Pegasus obey the rod,  
With massy iron barbarously shod;  
Thrice I essay'd to force him up the height,  
And thrice the painful gyves restrain'd his flight.

So when a sickly snake attempts to creep,  
Or climb some slippery rock or ditches steep,  
Scarce half her length advanc'd, she backward falls,  
And in slow volumes languishingly crawls.



To her Grace the Dutcheſs of Queensberry, a  
poetical Addreſs, by Terence Conner, in the  
Cells of Newgate.

Laturam miſero te mihi rebar opem. OVID.

Thou great protectreſs of the Aonian train,  
Support in each cotemporary reign;  
Brighteſt devotreſs at the Delian ſhrine,  
Oft ſung and courted by the ſacred Nine;  
If e'er thy kindred, of immortal fame,  
The Muſes lov'd, nor ſcorn'd a poet's name;  
If e'er thyſelf vouchſafe to touch the lyre,  
And join'd with open voice the tuneful quire;  
If on the canvafs, to deſcribe the face,  
With animated bloom, and living grace,  
To draw the vernal flower, and tinging ſhape  
The peach, the melon, and the ripen'd grape,  
To mark each ſtory, holy or profane,  
Move in the landſkip, and to viſion plain;  
If theſe with courtly wit and eloquence,  
Be gifts, Apollo did to thee diſpenſe,  
Which ſure they are, in charity regard  
The meaneſt of his ſons a captive bard;  
Far, far, alas! from home, and native clime,  
The firſt, perhaps, that did in Newgate rhyme;  
The firſt, perhaps, beneath his dreadful doom,  
That ever mounted the poetic loom.

O! born thyſelf of high Pierian blood,  
Boaſt of the times, nor yet more learn'd than good;  
Display thy bounty, where a life's at ſtake,  
And ſave the wretched for the poet's ſake;  
The poet pent in narrow darkling cell,  
With vagrants and banditties forc'd to dwell;  
In pond'rous gyves of iron rudely bound,  
A ſtone his pillow, and his bed the ground;

One

One penny-loaf, the banquet of a day,  
And chilling water to dilute his clay;  
Broke every morning of his painful rest,  
The scorn of turnkeys, and the keeper's jest;  
Sternly rebuk'd, if he the least complains,  
And menac'd with a double load of chains.  
Thus day and night disconsolate I spend,  
Unpitied, and debarr'd of every friend;  
Deserted by the Muses, as by men,  
Save Elegeia's visits now and then;  
Daughter of grief! and ever plaintive Muse,  
Taught only songs of sorrow to infuse,  
Dire comfort! thankful, yet am I, that she  
Inspires these lines, O Queensberry! to thee.

Thou then, from infant years brought up at courts,  
Directress of their household and their sports;  
The brilliant grace of both the Georges age;  
In wit facetious, and in council sage,  
Allow, as heretofore, the same access,  
Pity this bard, and banish his distress;  
Maintain the glory of thy former days,  
And intercede to save a son of GAY'S\*;  
Nor be it ever said in British land,  
That a poor bard was mercilessly hang'd.

It is a shocking consideration, that men, so liberally educated as Gahagan and Conner, could deliberately plunge into the commission of a crime big with such fatal consequences as that of diminishing the current coin of the realm: a crime which is the more cruel, as it is the most palpable robbery of the

A a 2

poor;

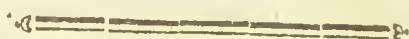
---

\* It is worthy of remembrance that the dutchess of Queensberry was the distinguished patroness of Gay, the author of the *Beggars' Opera*.

poor; for though light money has, till within these few years, currently passed when paid away in large quantities, yet when a single piece happens to fall into the hands of those who have no other, the distress that it may occasion is inexpressible. One would think this consideration alone might prevent the commission of such an offence; for if the offenders are influenced by poverty, they should consider that the dishonest mode of life they adopt tends principally to injure those who are still poorer than themselves!

The writer of this remembers the evidence of Coffey, some years after the death of his accomplices; and a miserable wretch was he: he seemed to have no comfort of his life; probably from the reflection of the disagreeable scenes in which he had been engaged, and the share he had taken in bringing his brethren in iniquity to justice.

Notwithstanding the wisdom of the law in admitting the evidence of accomplices, it cannot be presumed than any man, who has thus been the legal means of depriving another of life, can enjoy his own life afterwards. The best, the most effectual method to preserve peace of mind, is not to give occasion to compunction. To “do justice and love mercy” is a rule of conduct every way worthy of its divine author!



Account of the extraordinary Cases of TAPNER, COBBY, and the other *Smugglers*, who were hanged at *Chichester*, for the Murder of CHATER and GALLEY, Custom-house Officers.

THE crime for which these men suffered was of so horrid and unprovoked a nature, that the nobility and gentry of *Sussex* requested his majesty that



that a special commission for their trials might be issued; and in consequence hereof such special commission was appointed to be held at Chichester on the 16th of Jan. 1749, when Benjamin Tapner, John Cobby, John Hammond, William Jackson, William Carter, Rich. Mills the elder, and Richard Mills the younger, were indicted for the murder of Daniel Chater; the three first as principals, and the others as accessaries before the fact: and William Jackson and William Carter were indicted for the murder of William Galley.

Before we proceed to give an account of the conviction, we shall relate what we know of the parties themselves, and of the circumstances that led to the commission of the enormous crime for which they suffered.

BENJAMIN TAPNER was a native of Aldington in Suffex, and worked for some time as a Brick-layer; but, being of an idle disposition, he soon quitted his business, and associated with a gang of smugglers, who had rendered themselves formidable to the neighbourhood by their lawless depredations.

JOHN COBBY was an illiterate country fellow, the son of James Cobby, of the county of Suffex, labourer, and joined the smugglers a little time before he was thirty years of age.

JOHN HAMMOND was a labouring man, born at Berstead in Suffex; and had been a smuggler some time before he was apprehended for the above-mentioned murders, which was when he was almost forty years old.

WILLIAM JACKSON was a native of Hampshire, and had a wife and large family. He was brought up to the business of husbandry; but the hope of acquiring more money in an easier way induced him to engage with the smugglers; which at length ended in his ruin.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM CARTER, of Rowland's Castle in Hampshire, was the son of William Carter, of Eastmean, in the same county, thatcher. He was about the age of thirty-nine; and had practised smuggling a considerable time before the perpetration of the fact which led to his destruction.

RICHARD MILLS, the elder, was a native of Trotton in Sussex, and had been a horse-dealer by profession; but it is said that a failure in that business induced him to commence smuggler, and he had been long enough in that illicit practice to become one of the most hardened of the gang.

RICHARD MILLS the younger lived at Stedham in Sussex, and for some time followed his father's profession of horse-dealing; but, unfortunately, making a connection with the smugglers, he came to the same ignominious end as his companions, in the thirty-seventh year of his age.

It will be now proper to remark, that, in the year 1747, a most abandoned gang of villains having broken open the Custom-house at Poole, and carried off effects to a considerable amount; the King's proclamation was issued, offering a reward for the apprehension of the offenders.

In consequence of this proclamation, a man named Dimar was taken up on suspicion, and lodged in Chichester goal; and the commissioners of the customs being made acquainted with this circumstance, they wrote to the collector of the customs at Southampton, hinting that as Dimar was born in that town, it might be proper to send some person to Chichester who knew the prisoner, that his person might be identified on the trial.

The collector recollecting that Daniel Chater was acquainted with Dimar, and had heard him mention something respecting the breaking open the Custom-

Custom-house at Poole, he dispatched Chater, in company with William Galley, an officer of the customs, that they might be examined by the surveyor at Chichester.

On the 14th of February, 1748, Chater and Galley set out in company, and having rode to Leigh in Hampshire, enquired their way to Eastmardon in Sussex, at a public-house where they stopped for refreshment.

At this time several smugglers were in the house, and one of them observing Galley take a letter from his pocket, directed to Mr. Battine, surveyor at Chichester, he conjectured that the business of the officers was to give evidence against Dimar: on which the smugglers told them that they had mis-  
sed their way by ten miles, and added that they would go with them, and put them into the right road.

This offer, so apparently generous, being accepted, they all travelled in company some miles, and then stopped to drink at the house of a widow named Payne, who had two sons that were concerned in the illicit practice of smuggling. Mrs. Payne informed her sons that she suspected the two strangers to be custom-house officers; on which the young fellows went out, and brought in some of their companions. In the interim Chater and Galley drank plentifully; and the liquor opening their hearts, they were so much off their guard, as to talk so freely, that the smugglers became well acquainted with their business and connexions.

Having drank about six hours, they slept about two more, when it was eight o'clock at night; at which time Jackson struck them, and bade them arise, for they should stay there no longer.

Hereupon the unhappy men got on horseback, and were attended by the smugglers, who for a while

while debated how to dispose of them. Some of the company proposed to confine them till they could find a convenient opportunity of transporting them to France; but this was opposed by the greater number of the gang.

It was not long after they quitted Mrs. Payne's house, when the smugglers began to whip them in a manner too inhuman to be described. This severity was continued about half a mile, till they reached a place called Wood-ashe, where the smugglers drank each of them a glass of brandy.

Proceeding thence, they continued to whip the unhappy men a mile farther, when apprehending they would drop to the ground, they tied their feet under the bellies of their horses: but, notwithstanding this caution, the poor wretches dropped through extremity of pain, and their heads dragged on the ground.

The intentional murderers, callous to all the feelings of humanity, now replaced them on their horses, and continued to whip them as they had before done, till they came to Goodthorp-Dean, at the distance of half a mile more, where they stopped, and again beat them with the utmost severity. One of the smugglers now produced a pistol, and swore he would shoot the poor men through the head, if they made any noise till they had got past the village.

Proceeding forwards, they once more beat them as before, and the unhappy victims to undeserved barbarity fell under the bellies of the horses when they were about a quarter of a mile out of the village. Their sufferings by this time were so great, that they were half dead; on which the smugglers took them from their horses, and placed each of them behind one of their own companions.

In







*Dodd delin.*

*Remondson sculp.*

*The Dead Body of W<sup>m</sup> GALLEY, who was cruelly  
murdered by the SMUGGLERS of Kent, & Sussex,*

In this manner they went forward till they arrived at a place called Lady-Holt-park,\* where the smugglers took Galley from the horse, with an intention of throwing him into a well; and indeed his sufferings had been by this time so extreme, that he might wish to have got rid of the burden of life at any rate.

At this juncture some of the smugglers objected to the throwing him into the well: on which he was again placed on the horse; but he had not rode far, before he was so weak as to be unable to keep his seat; whereupon he was taken off, and laid across the horse, with his belly downwards; and having been thus carried more than a mile, he was placed with his legs across the saddle, but his body hung over the neck of the horse.

During the transacting these scenes of inhumanity, Galley cried out, “Barbarous usage! for God’s sake, shoot me through the head, or through the body!” But, instead of complying with his request, they fastened him to the horse with a cord, and one of the smugglers rode behind him; but, in going down a hill, he fell from the horse, and expired on the spot.

The villains were afraid to leave the body of the deceased on the road, but put it again across the horse, and conveyed it to the house of a smuggler in the neighbourhood, with whom they conferred as to the mode of disposing of it. This man advised them to carry it to the distance of three quarters of a mile, and bury it; and went with them to shew them a proper spot: and when they came there

\* Not lady Holt’s park, as printed in other books of this kind.

they dug a grave, and threw in the body, throwing the earth over it.

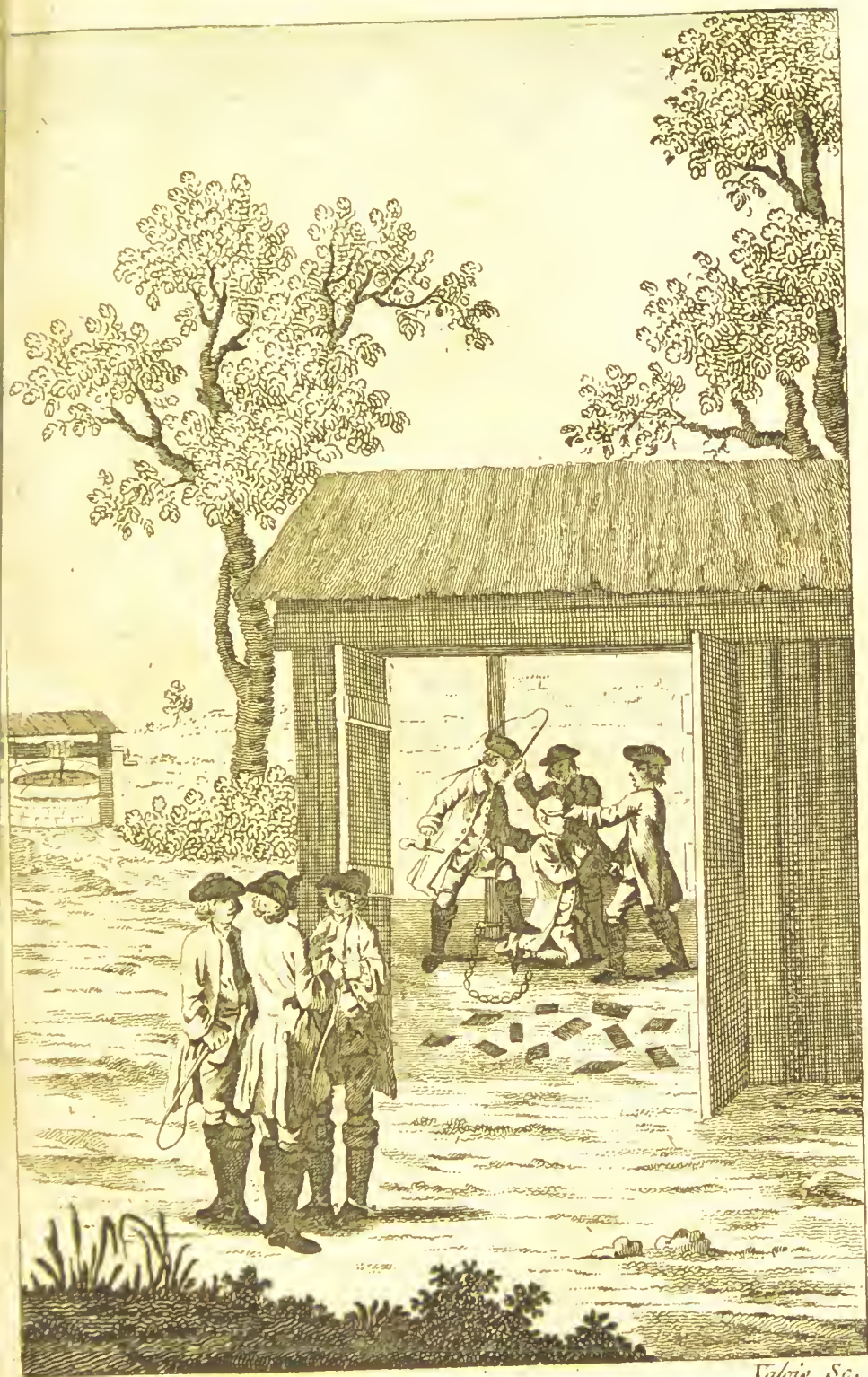
This transaction happened on the 13th of Feb. and on the 13th of September following (a distance of seven months) a gentleman named Stone, being on a party of hunting, discovered the grave; and, the place being searched, the body was found, though in a corrupted state. The coat and boots were likewise found; the former retaining its original colour; and in the pocket was found Mr. Galley's deputation from the commissioners of the customs. In the mean time, several of the murderers had fled to France, in order to screen themselves from the justice of their country; but some of them were afterwards admitted evidences, in order to enforce this justice. But it is now proper that we should advert to the case of the other unfortunate sufferer.

The-smugglers having disposed of Galley, took Chater to the house of old Mills, one of their accomplices in iniquity, where they chained him to a stake in an outhouse where turf was kept, and in this place he remained three days.

While he was in this situation, Tapner pulled out a clasped knife, and swearing he would be his butcher, cut him over both his eyes, and down his forehead, so that he bled to a great degree. He was desired to say his prayers, for (to use their own language) "they were come to kill him, and kill him they would." This speech was particularly made use of by Tapner; and none of the company interposed to save his life.

At length one of them unlocked the chain, and put him on horseback, to carry him to the well in Lady-Holt-park, where having arrived, three of them got off their horses, and Tapner having tied a  
cord





Valois Sc.

*The Smugglers torturing Chater the Custom house Officer.*





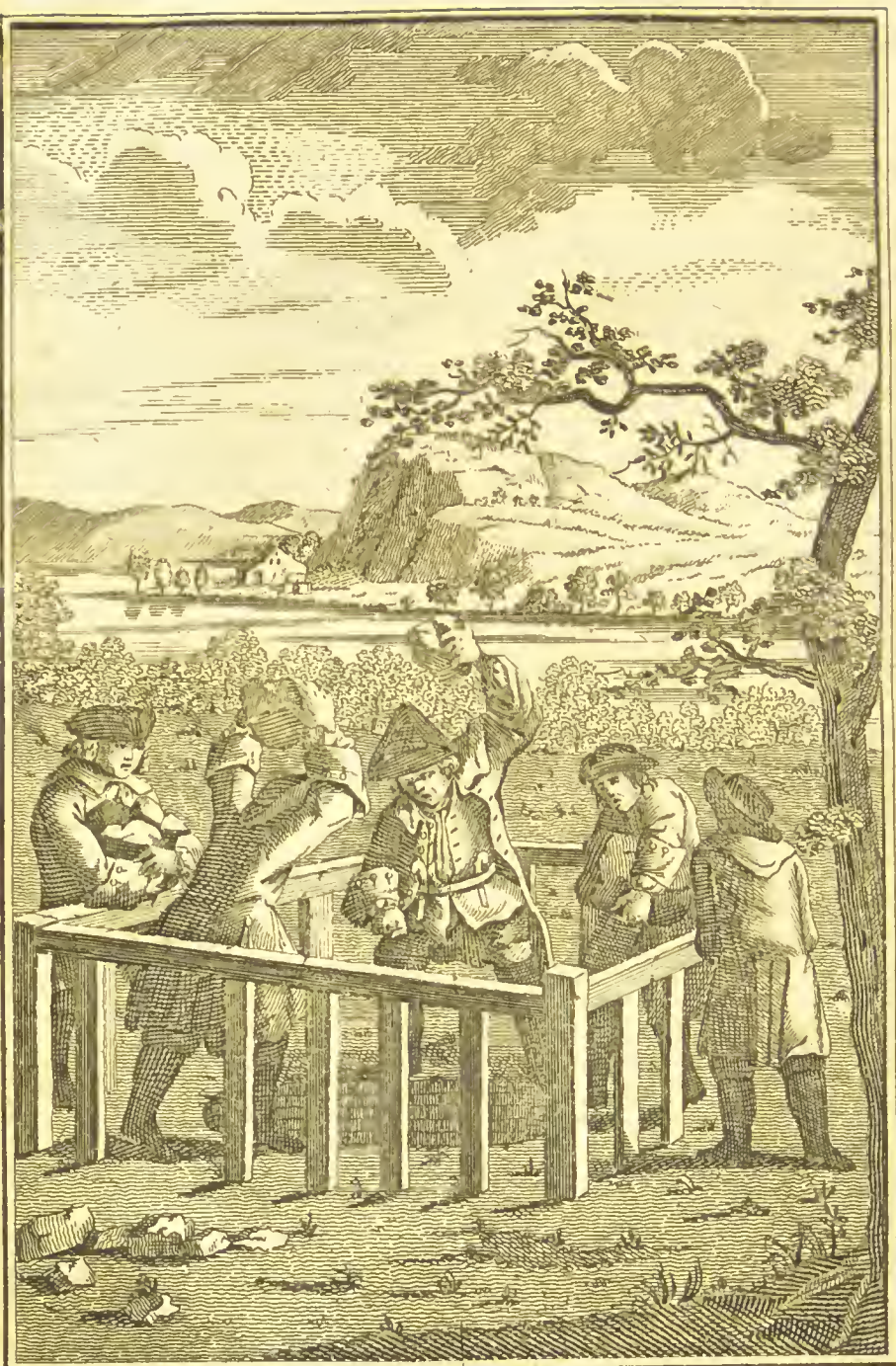




*Tapner & Cobby going to harry Chater in a Well.*







*Tainpo delin*  
*The Bloody and Inhuman SMUGGLERS throwing down*  
*Stones &c. on the expiring Body of DANIEL CHATER;*  
*whom they had flung into Lady-Holt-Well.* *Roberts sculp.*

cord round his neck, led him forwards, when seeing some pales that surrounded the well broke down, he would have gone through the opening; but Tapner said, “No, you shall get over;” which he did, with the rope about his neck.

They then put him into the well, and hung him, winding the rope about the paling; and when his body had hung thus about a quarter of an hour, one of them took hold of his legs, and let his head fall foremost into the well; and Tapner loosening the rope, the body fell to the bottom of the well. This being done, they remained some time, when one of the company saying he thought he heard him breathe, they threw a gate-post or two into the well, and then departed.

On their return home, these execrable murderers stopped at the house of one of their acquaintance to drink, where they were hardened enough to boast of the outrage they had committed, and even spoke of it as a circumstance that merited praise.

After a long and diligent search for the perpetrators of these crimes, some of the smugglers were taken up on suspicion, and being examined in presence of the commissioners of the customs, were admitted evidences for the crown, on discovering all they knew of the horrid transaction.

In consequence hereof the prisoners were brought to trial, at the time and place above-mentioned; when sir Michael Foster presided in court.

The judge’s charge to the grand jury was full of good sense, and highly reprobated the practice of smuggling, by which the fair trader is defrauded, and the revenue greatly injured.

When the trial came on, the evidence was very full and circumstantial against the prisoners; and the jury, after being out of court about a quarter



of an hour, brought in a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners: whereupon the judge pronounced sentence on the convicts, in one of the most pathetic addresses that was ever heard; representing the enormity of their crime, and exhorting them to make immediate preparation for the awful fate that awaited them: adding that "christian charity obliges me to tell you, that your time in this world will be very short."

The heinousness of the crime of which these men had been convicted rendering it necessary that their punishment should be exemplary, the judge ordered that they should be executed on the following day; and the sentence was accordingly carried into execution against all but Jackson, who died in prison on the evening that he was condemned.

They were hanged at Chichester, on the 18th of January 1749, amidst such a concourse of spectators as is seldom seen on occasion of a public execution.

Carter was hung in chains near Rake in Sussex; Tapner on Rooks-hill, near Chichester; and Cobby and Hammond on the sea-coast, near a place called Selfey-bill in Sussex, where they could be seen to a great distance East and West.

Jackson had lived some years a Roman Catholic; and, from the following Popish relic found in his pocket, there is little doubt but he died such.

Sancti tres reges,  
Gaspar, Melchior, Belthazar,  
Orate pro nobis, nunc et in hora  
Mortis nostræ.

Ces billets ont touché aux trois têtes de  
S. S. Rois a Cologne.

Ils sont pour des voyageurs, contre les malheurs de chemins, maux de tête, mal caduque, fièvres, so-cellerie, toute sorte de malefice, et mort subite.

The



The English of which is,

Ye three holy kings,

Gaspar, Melchior, Belthazar,

Pray for us now, and in the hour of death.

These papers have touched the three heads of

The holy kings of Cologne.

They are to preserve travellers from accidents on the road, head-achs, falling-sickness, fevers, witchcraft, all kinds of mischief, and sudden death.

The body of the above-mentioned Jackson was thrown into a hole near the place of execution; as were the bodies of Mills, the father and son, who had no friends to take them away; and at a small distance from this spot is erected a stone, on which is the following inscription:

Near this place was buried the body of William Jackson, who upon a special commission of Oyer and Terminer, held at Chichester, on the 16th day of January, 1748-9, was, with William Carter, attainted for the murder of William Galley, custom-house officer; and who likewise was, together with Benjamin Tapner, John Cobby, John Hammond, Richard Mills the elder, Richard Mills the younger, his son, attainted for the murder of Daniel Chater; but dying in a few hours after sentence of death was pronounced upon him, he thereby escaped the punishment which the heinousness of his complicated crimes deserved, and which was, the next day, most justly inflicted upon his accomplices.

As a memorial to posterity, and a warning to this, and succeeding generations,

This stone is erected.

A. D. 1749.

It is impossible to speak of the unprovoked barbarity of these murders in terms such as they deserve. We have seldom heard of offences so atrocious; and we ought to hope that nothing approaching to them in wickedness will ever again reach our knowledge.

Those who consider the practice of smuggling as a venial crime, will see, in this instance, how naturally it led to murder. In fact, it cannot be a small offence; for government must be supported for the protection of the people at large; or all things would fall into anarchy and confusion.

We are sensible that the people of this country are taxed in a high degree; but the inhabitants of Holland are much more severely taxed: yet their industry, their close attention to trade, supports them in affluence; and though they pay more duties than any other people, they are some of the happiest in Europe.

Hence let us learn that "honesty is the best policy, and that "the hand of the diligent maketh rich:" and above all things let us avoid the horrid crime of murder; which is a violation of all the rights of humanity; and an insult offered to the God who created us.



Extraordinary case of BRIAN SEYMOUR, who was hanged at *Edinburgh*, for *Murder*.

**T**HIS man was born at Waterford in Ireland, his father being a corporal in a marching regiment that was quartered there; but having obtained a pension in England, he came to London, and left  
the

the boy to be taken care of by some friends in Ireland.

Having followed the business of husbandry till the eighteenth year of his age, he came to England to see his father; but on his way to London he enlisted in the sixth regiment of foot, and soon afterwards embarking for Flanders, had a share in the memorable battle of Fontenoy.

The rebellion in 1745 occasioned his being sent to England, when he served under general Wade, who then commanded in Yorkshire; but marching thence to Newcastle, Seymour had there a quarrel with a soldier, respecting a woman of ill fame; and a duel ensuing, his antagonist was killed: but the troublesome situation of affairs induced the general to grant Seymour a free pardon, without a minute scrutiny into his conduct.

Proceeding to Scotland, this man was present at the battle of Culloden, where he behaved with singular courage; but the regiment in which he served having been greatly injured, was ordered into winter quarters at Edinburgh, where the indulgence of his irregular passions gave rise to the crime which cost him his life.

At this time it was customary for some of the ministers of the church of Scotland who were out of employment, to marry people at alehouses, in the same manner that the Fleet marriages were conducted in London. Sometimes people of fortune thought it prudent to apply to these reverend marriage-brokers; but as their chief business lay among the lower ranks of people, they were derisively called by the name of "Buckle the Beggars."

Most of these marriages were solemnized at public houses in the Cannongate; and Seymour happening to be present when a couple came to be married,

married, and no priest present, he whispered the landlady, that if she would procure him a suit of black, he would officiate as the parson. The woman, unwilling to lose a customer, procured the cloaths, and Seymour being dressed in them, went into the room where the young couple waited, assuming the grave deportment of a real clergyman.

The lady who was to be married hinting that she did not think he was a minister, he solemnly averred that he was, and the marriage took place accordingly.

Before ten o'clock at night Seymour was obliged to return to the barracks in the castle; but by this time he was so much intoxicated, that he was prepared to affront every one he met. When he came to the Lawn-market, he ran against a gentleman's servant named Johnson, who being irritated, struck Seymour a blow on the face: on which the latter drew his sword, and stabbed Johnson, so that he instantly died; when the murderer put up his sword, and proceeded towards the castle: but a shoe-maker, named Young, having observed what had passed, followed Seymour to the gate of the castle; but the clock striking ten at that instant, the draw-bridge was pulled up, so that Young could not be admitted for that night.

On the following morning Young went to the Lord Justice Clerk, and informing him of what he knew of the transaction, offered his assistance in discovering the murderer; on which his lordship ordered an officer to attend him, and directed the governor to let him have a sight of all the soldiers.

At ten o'clock the men were drawn up on the parade, and Young walking round the lines, fixed on Seymour as the man who had committed the murder; whereupon he was delivered up, to abide the determination of the laws.



On the trial, Young positively swore to the identity of the offender; and much other evidence arising to prove that he was the party, he was capitally convicted, and sentence of death was pronounced against him.

This offender denied his guilt for some time, and hinted that Young was perjured; but he afterwards became truly sensible of the enormity of his crime, and confessed it with all its aggravating circumstances. Two clergymen attended him to the place of execution, to which he walked, dressed in a shroud, and reading a book; a sight which would be deemed very extraordinary in England.

He was hanged at Edinburgh, on the 2d of March, 1749; after which his body was buried in the church-yard belonging to the castle.

This offender seems to have fallen a sacrifice to his ungovernable passions, enflamed by liquor; and his fate ought to afford a warning, not only to people in his sphere of life, but to all others, of whatever degree, to avoid the crime of drunkenness, as what may naturally be supposed to lead to the commission of greater. The drunkard is off his guard during the operation of the liquor, and fitted almost for the perpetration of any crime. It is common to say that a man is "as drunk as a beast;" but we should remember that the brute animals are never intoxicated. The most wholesome beverage forms their copious draught; and the human creature who abandons himself to the practice of intoxication, is degraded below "the beasts that perish!" Sobriety is itself a virtue; and productive of many of those other virtues which do honour to humanity.

Account of the very singular Cases of JOHN COLLINGTON, and JOHN STONE, who were hanged at *Canterbury*, for *setting Fire to a Barn*.

THE father of JOHN COLLINGTON was rector of Pluckley, near Sandwich, in Kent; and the youth was qualified, by a most liberal education, and his great natural talents, to have made a very respectable figure in life; but his passions were so violent, and his revenge so implacable, that all who knew him beheld him with horror.

He used to declare, that he would be a sincere friend, but an inveterate foe; and even while at school created such dissensions among the other scholars, that he was held in universal contempt, and was discharged from more schools than one with marks of ignominy.

At length his father apprenticed him to a grocer in Newgate-street, London; but he behaved in such a manner as to become an object of terror to his fellow-servants. The following circumstance, trifling as it is, will serve to mark his disposition. One of the maid-servants desiring him to fetch some mustard, he went out for that purpose; but calling a coach at the door, he drove to Cheapside, purchased the mustard, and, on his return, paid the fare out of his master's money in the till. The master, astonished at his behaviour, demanded the reason of it: when he gave for answer, that "his parents had not bound him apprentice to be an errand-boy."

On another occasion he asked his master's permission to visit his relations for a fortnight, and his request was complied with. When the time of his departure arrived, his master being absent,

asked his mistress to give him leave to stay three weeks. To which she consented; but he returned not till the end of five weeks; and his master enquiring why he had been so long absent, Collington replied that he had allowed him a fortnight, and his mistress three weeks, so that he had not out-staid his time. This duplicity of conduct incensed the master so, that he gave up his indentures, and discharged him.

Having served the remainder of his apprenticeship with a grocer of Maidstone, he opened a shop at Rye in Suffex, where he lived for some years; but his temper was so bad, that he fomented perpetual discord among his neighbours; in consequence of which law-suits arose, and scarce any one would deal with a man whom every one had reason to hate.

From this place he went to Charing in Kent, where he likewise kept a shop a considerable time; but the same conduct which had rendered him an object of contempt at Rye, made him equally obnoxious to the inhabitants of this latter place.

Collington had not been long in business before he married a young lady, with whom he received a considerable fortune, and by whom he had ten children, four of whom were living at the time of the father's fatal exit.

The conduct of this man towards his wife and children was the most extravagant that can be imagined. The six children who died he buried in his own garden, nor would he permit any of them to be baptized. He frequently beat his children in a barbarous manner; and when the mother interposed in their behalf, he used to confine her whole nights in a saw-pit.

Being remarkably fond of sporting, his wife, when big with child, requested that he would pro-



cure her a partridge; in consequence of which he went out, and shot several: but when the birds were dressed, and ready for the table, one of the children happening to offend him, he corrected it in so severe a manner, as to endanger its life; and the mother interposing for the preservation of the child, he was so enraged that he cut the partridges in pieces, and threw them to the cats and dogs.

This instance of worse than savage ferocity so affected his wife, that she fell into fits, and miscarried: but she had not been long recovered, when, on her interposing in behalf of one of the children, whom he was treating with severity, he threw her down stairs, and stamped on her breast, which gave rise to a cancer that occasioned her death.

Collington's father dying soon after this event, he succeeded to a good estate at Throwleigh in Kent, to which place he removed; and took to the practice of exporting wool, contrary to law; for which he was prosecuted in the court of exchequer, and convicted to pay a large penalty; but he avoided payment, by having previously conveyed his estate to another, and then swearing that he was not worth five pounds.

This man, being passionately fond of hunting, was frequently prosecuted for offending against the game laws, by which he was put to almost continual expence.

Notwithstanding the treatment his first wife had received from him, he soon married a second, by whom he had six children; and four of these, besides the same number by the former marriage, (as we have mentioned) were living at the time of his death.

At length his offences against the laws made for the preservation of the game became so numerous, that



that the dowager countess of Rockingham built a cottage, in which she placed one of her servants, as a spy upon his conduct.

Collington, incensed by this circumstance, tempted a poor countryman to set fire to the cottage: but the man had courage and honesty to resist the temptation. Hereupon Collington took one of his servants named Luckhurst to Feverham in Kent, at the time of the fair, and on their way thither told him he would give him half a guinea to fire the said cottage; which the man received, and promised to comply.

On the following day, when Luckhurst recollected the nature of the contract he had been making, his mind was so disturbed that he went to Collington, and offered back the money, declaring that he would have no share in the transaction. Collington was so enraged, that he threatened to destroy him, unless he kept the money, and did as he had agreed: the consequence of which was, the man fired the cottage at midnight, by which it was reduced to the ground.

Collington was so neglectful of his children, that he would not buy them necessary apparel; so that they appeared like beggars; nor would he even pay for their learning to read. The following is a striking proof of his want of humanity. One of his sons, a boy of twelve years old, having offended him, he confined him in a saw pit, where he must have been starved, but that he was occasionally supplied with food by the humanity of the servants; and for this conduct their brutal master turned them out of the house, without paying what was due to them.

This inhuman father then refused to maintain his son, so that the child absolutely begged his bread.

bread in the neighbourhood : but he had not wandered long in this manner, when Mr. Clarke, the churchwarden, received him into his house, and provided for him till the quarter sessions, when he submitted the case to the consideration of the magistrates.

These gentlemen, having reflected that Mr. Collington was in affluent circumstances, gave directions that the child should be properly provided for, and issued a warrant for seizing on part of the father's effects to defray the charge. This warrant was executed by a constable, whom Clarke attended : a circumstance which gave such offence to Collington, that he vowed revenge, and bade Clark make his will.

After this he hired five fellows to go to Mr. Clarke's house, and demand the child, on pretence that he belonged to a ship : but Mr. Clarke having the magistrate's order for his proceedings, said he was willing to answer for his conduct before any justice of the peace. No sooner had he thus expressed himself, than they beat him in the most violent degree, and threatened his instant destruction, unless he consented to accompany them,

These threats had such an effect, that he mounted a horse behind one of them ; but, as they were riding along, he jumped off, and ran into the court-yard of a gentleman, whose gate happened to stand open ; while the other parties fired at him ; but he escaped unhurt. Here he remained till the following day, when he went to his own house, and thence to a magistrate, before whom he swore the peace \* against Collington ; on which the

---

\* Swearing the peace, as it is called, is the deposition of one person, that his life is endangered by the practices of another.

magistrate granted his warrant for the apprehension of the offender, who refusing to give bail for his good behaviour, was lodged in the goal of Canterbury.

During his confinement he continually threatened vengeance against Clarke ; and to execute his purpose he sent for a labouring man, named Stone, and the above-mentioned Luckhurst, and offered them a guinea each, on the condition of their setting fire to Mr. Clarke's barn, in which a considerable quantity of corn was deposited. The villains, agreeing to this bargain, fired the barn at midnight, and likewise a number of hay-ricks, all of which were destroyed.

Mr. Clarke, suspecting that Collington was the contriver of this horrid scheme, made application to a magistrate, who issued an order that the prisoner should be more closely confined, and that the goal-keeper should take particular notice of his visitors. This precaution led to a discovery of the offenders ; for Luckhurst coming to procure more money of Collington, he was taken into custody, and conducted before a justice of the peace, to whom he confessed the affair ; and being admitted an evidence, Stone was soon taken up as one of the principals.

At the following assizes, held at Maidstone, Collington and Stone were brought to trial ; when the former turned his back on the court, with an air of such utter contempt, that the judge declared he had never been witness to such a scene of insolence.

The prisoners, being convicted on the fullest evidence, were carried back to Canterbury, where the debtors commiserated their unhappy circumstances : but Collington made a jest of his situation,



and swore he did not regard it, as he was certain of obtaining the royal mercy.

This hardened villain likewise encouraged Stone to hope for mercy, as he could get him included in the pardon; but the event proved how much he was mistaken in his conjecture.

Collington's wife coming to visit him, was so affected with grief, as to be unable to speak to him for a considerable time; yet he was so hardened as not to feel for her situation; but bade her not give herself the least concern, as he was certain of getting a reprieve; and hoped to live to revenge himself on his enemies, even if he should be transported.

He frequently expressed himself in the most revengeful terms against his prosecutors; and appeared, in other respects, so destitute of all the feelings of humanity, that his conduct surprized every one who was witness to it. Thus he spent his time without preparing for the sentence that he was to suffer, and still boasting to his visitors that the rank of life he held as a gentleman would secure him a reprieve.

Luckhurst, who had been evidence against him, being apprehended for committing a robbery on the highway, Collington thought this a fair opportunity to solicit a reprieve; for which purpose he dispatched an express to the duke of Newcastle; but the answer he received was, that he must not expect any favour, for that the gentlemen of the county had exerted their influence that the law might be permitted to take its course.

On being informed that the warrant for his execution was arrived, his boasted courage left him for a short time; but recollecting himself, he enquired if Stone was included in the warrant; and being  
answered



answered in the affirmative, said he lamented his situation more than his own. After this he soon recovered his spirits, and still flattered himself with the hope of being pardoned.

The day preceding his execution he was visited by his wife and several relations, who advised him to make a serious preparation for his approaching death; and asked him where he would be buried. This question enflamed all his passions, so that he swore he would not be hanged: but soon afterwards calling for a glass of wine, he drank it, saying, “Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die.”

On the following day Collington was conveyed to the place of execution in a mourning coach, and Stone in a cart; and both of them being placed under the gallows, Collington prayed with the minister, but declined making any speech to the surrounding multitude.

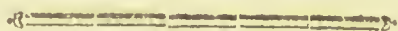
These men suffered at Canterbury on the 7th of April, 1749.

It is impossible to find terms of indignation properly expressive of the feelings of an honest mind on reading this narrative. The disposition of Collington appears to have been that of a devil in the human shape. His heart was hardened against his fellow-creatures in general; and against even those who, being the nearest, ought to have been the dearest to him. His wives and children certainly should have been the objects of his tenderest compassion; instead of which we find them those of his implacable barbarity.

Stone, though highly criminal, will be considered as much less so than his savage employer. His ignorance, his poverty, will plead a little in his behalf: and though nothing can excuse the horrid crime of which he was guilty, we may be allowed to drop a

tear of humanity on the grave of a man, whose distresses may have tempted him to listen to the seductions of a vile incendiary.

On the whole, the fate of these men should teach us to keep our passions in a due subordination, and to regulate all our conduct by the principles of reason and religion. Thus may we hope to live in credit and esteem, and to die lamented by the wise and the virtuous!



Account of the extraordinary case of RICHARD COLEMAN, who was hanged at *Kennington Common*, for a *Murder* of which he was not guilty.

RICHARD Coleman was indicted at the assizes held at Kingston in Surry, in March 1749, for the murder of Sarah Green, on the 23d of July preceding; when he was capitally convicted.

Mr. Coleman had received a decent education, and was clerk to a brewer at the time the affair happened which cost him his life; and had a wife and several children, who were reduced to accept the bounty of the parish, in consequence of his conviction.

The murdered person was Sarah Green, who, having been with some acquaintance to a bean-feast in Kennington-lane, staid to a late hour, and on her return towards Southwark, she met with three men, who had the appearance of brewers' servants, two of whom lay with her by force, and otherwise used her in so inhuman a manner as will bear no description.

Such

Such was the ill-treatment she had received, that it was two o'clock in the morning before she was able to reach her lodgings, and on the following day was so ill, that she informed several people how she had been treated; on which she was sent to St. Thomas's hospital.

While in the hospital she declared that the clerk in Taylor's (then Berry's) brewhouse was one of the parties who had treated her in such an infamous manner; and it was supposed that Coleman was the person to whom she alluded.

Two days after the shocking transaction had happened, Coleman and one Daniel Trotman happened to call at the Queen's-head alehouse in Bandy-leg-walk, when the latter was perfectly sober, but the former in a state of intoxication. Having called for some rum and water, Coleman was stirring it with a spoon, when a stranger asked him what he had done with the pig; meaning a pig that had been lately stolen in the neighbourhood. Coleman, unconscious of guilt, and conceiving himself affronted by such an impertinent question, said "D—n the pig, what is it to me?"

The other, who seems to have had an intention to ensnare him, asked him if he did not know Kennington-lane? Coleman answered that he did, and added "D—n ye, what of that?" The other then asked him if he knew the woman that had been so cruelly treated in Kennington-lane? Coleman replied yes, and again said "D—n ye, what of that?" The other man asked, "Was not you one of the parties concerned in that affair?" Coleman, who, as we have said, was intoxicated, and had no suspicion of design, replied, "If I had, you dog, what then?" and threw at him the spoon with which he was stirring the liquor. A

violent quarrel ensued; but at length Coleman went away with Trotman.

On the following day Coleman calling at the Queen's-head abovementioned, the landlord informed him how imprudently he had acted the preceding day. Coleman, who had been too drunk to remember what had passed, asked if he had offended any person; on which the landlord informed him of what had happened: but the other, still conscious of his innocence, paid no regard to what he said.

On the 29th of August Daniel Trotman and another man went before Mr. Clarke, a magistrate in the Borough, and charged Coleman on suspicion of having violently assaulted, and cruelly treated, Sarah Green, in the Parsonage-walk, near Newington church, in Surry.

The magistrate, who does not seem to have supposed that Coleman was guilty, sent for him, and hired a man to attend him to the hospital where the wounded woman lay; and a person pointing out Coleman, asked if he was one of the persons who had used her so cruelly. She said, she believed he was: but as she declined to swear positively to his having any concern in the affair, justice Clarke admitted him to bail.

Some time afterwards Coleman was again taken before the magistrate, when nothing positive being sworn against him, the justice would have absolutely discharged him: but Mr. Wynne, the master of the injured girl, requesting that he might once more be taken to see her, a time was fixed for that purpose, and the justice took Coleman's word for his appearance.

The accused party came punctually to his time, bringing with him the landlord of an alehouse where



where Sarah Green had drunk, on the night of the affair, with the three men who really injured her: and this publican, and other people, declared on oath that Coleman was not one of the parties.

On the following day justice Clarke went to the hospital, to take the examination of the woman on oath. Having asked her if Coleman was one of the men who had injured her, she said she could not tell, as it was dark at the time; but Coleman being called in, an oath was administered to her, when she swore that he was one of the three men that abused her.

Notwithstanding this oath, the justice, who thought the poor girl not in her right senses, and was convinced in his own mind of the innocence of Coleman, permitted him to depart, on his promise of bringing bail the following day to answer the complaint at the next assizes for Surry; and he brought his bail and gave security accordingly.

Sarah Green dying in the hospital, the coroner's jury sat to enquire into the cause of her death; and having found a verdict of Wilful Murder against Richard Coleman, and two persons then unknown, a warrant was issued to take Coleman into custody.

Though this man was conscious of his innocence, yet such were his terrors at the idea of going to prison on such a charge, that he absconded, and secreted himself at Pinner, near Harrow on the Hill.

King George the second being then at Hanover, a proclamation was issued by the Lords of the Regency, offering a reward of 50*l*. for the apprehension of the supposed offender; and to this the parish of St. Saviour, Southwark, added a reward of 20*l*.

Coleman read the advertisement for his apprehension in the Gazette, but was still so thoughtless  
as

as to conceal himself; though perhaps an immediate surrender would have been deemed the strongest testimony of his innocence; however, to assert his innocence, he caused the following advertisement to be printed in the news-paper.

“ I Richard Coleman, seeing myself advertised in the Gazette, as absconding on account of the murder of Sarah Green, knowing myself not any way culpable, do assert that I have not absconded from justice; but will willingly and readily appear at the next assizes, knowing that my innocence will acquit me.”

Strict search being made after him, he was apprehended at Pinner, abovementioned on the 22d of November, and lodged in Newgate, whence he was removed to the New Gaol, Southwark, till the time of the assizes at Kingston in Surry; when his conviction arose principally from the evidence of Trotman, and the declaration of the dying woman.

Some persons positively swore that he was in another place at the time the fact was committed; but their evidence was not credited by the jury: though it will be seen, in a subsequent part of this work, that it would have been happy if a proper attention had been paid to it.

After conviction Coleman behaved like one who was possessed of conscious innocence, and who had no fear of death for a crime which he had not committed.

He was attended at the place of execution by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, to whom he delivered a paper, in which he declared, in the most solemn and explicit manner, that he was altogether innocent of the crime alledged against him. He died with great resignation; lamenting only the distress in which he should leave a wife and two children.

This

This unhappy victim to erroneous evidence suffered the sentence of the law at Kennington-common on the 12th of April, 1749.

There is something exceedingly shocking in the fate of this man. He was convicted, in a great measure, on the evidence of the poor injured woman, whose excruciating pains of body may well be supposed to have impaired the faculties of her mind. Her doubt respecting him, and her refusing to swear to him when she first saw him in the hospital, ought in a great degree to have destroyed the force of her evidence, when the aggravated pains of the body had still more weakened her intellects.

Justices of the peace in general, we are sorry to say it, are but too fond of finding out evidence against prisoners: and it is to be feared that to their officious diligence it is owing that many an innocent man has lost his life. Mr. Clarke was a striking exception to this general rule. His doubt of the truth of the woman's evidence added to his prior confidence of Mr. Coleman's innocence.

However justices may chuse to act in cases of this nature, jurymen should consider themselves as they really are, the JUDGES of the FACT, and never convict on evidence merely circumstantial, except when the circumstances are so numerous in themselves, so evidently depending one on each other, and supported by the testimony of such a number of credible witnesses, as to produce evidence at least as full as what would arise from the positive oath of any single person; and there are instances where this collateral evidence may be even stronger; but this will be best explained by an example.

Suppose a gentleman be stopped on the highway, and robbed in the dusk of the evening by a highwayman, to whose face he cannot positively swear:

—suppose at the moment the robbery is committed two persons ride up, and seeing the highwayman quitting the carriage of the person robbed, who gives an alarm, they pursue and take him; and find on him the watch, some notes, remarkable pieces of money, or other matters, to which the injured party can positively swear. In this case, if the highwayman was never out of sight, a jury may safely convict on the evidence, provided the character of the person robbed and the witnesses be such as to entitle them to credit: for the proof resulting from this combined evidence is more ample than what could arise from the simple oath of the party injured, if he had not seen the robber till a future day, and then sworn to his guilt: for it is very possible that men who are terrified may be mistaken in the countenances of others, whom they have but imperfectly seen before, and indeed this has often happened, and sometimes fatally.

Upon the whole, this case of Coleman is one of those mysteries of Providence which will be fully brought to light only in a future state of existence, when all hidden things will be made plain, and we shall adore that wonderful wisdom of God which is now altogether above our finite comprehension!



Account of THOMAS KINGSMILL, WILLIAM FAIRALL, and RICHARD PERIN who were hanged at *Tyburn* for breaking open the *Custom-house* at *Pocle*.

**I**T may not be improper to premise that these men were a part of that infamous gang of smugglers, several of whom murdered Galley and Chater, the Custom-house officers, as recorded in the preceding



ceding pages of this work. These villains were so hardened and daring in their villanies, that the honest inhabitants on and near the coasts of Hampshire, Kent, and Suffex, lived in perpetual apprehension.

Before we relate the particulars of the fact for which they suffered, we will give such an account of the parties themselves as we have been able to procure.

KINGSMILL was a native of Goodhurst in Kent, and had passed some part of his life as a husbandman; but having associated with the smugglers, he made no scruple of entering into the most hazardous enterprizes; and became so distinguished for his courageous, or rather ferocious disposition, that he was chosen captain of the gang; an honour of which he was so proud, that he sought every opportunity of exhibiting specimens of his courage, and put himself foremost in every service of danger.

FAIRALL was a native of Horsendown-green in Kent, and the son of poor parents, who were unable either to educate him, or to give him any regular employment by which he might obtain a livelihood. He began to associate with the smugglers while quite a boy, and was frequently employed by them to hold their horses; and when he grew up to man's estate, he was admitted as one of the fraternity. He was so remarkable for his brutal courage, that it was not thought safe to offend him.

Having been taken into custody, and lodged in the New-goal, Southwark, he made his escape from thence, and vowed vengeance against the magistrate who had granted the warrant for his apprehension; and, in consequence hereof, he and Kingsmill, and others of the gang, laid wait for the gentleman one morning when he left his house; but not meeting with him then, they hid themselves under his park

wall, till his usual time of returning in the evening; but it happened that, on his return, he heard the voices of men; and the night being very dark, he turned his horse and went into his house by a private door, by which he avoided the dangerous snare that was laid for him.

PERIN was a native of Chichester in Suffex. Having served his time to a carpenter, he practised some years as a master, and was successful in trade; but a stroke of the palsy depriving him of the use of his right hand, he became connected with the smugglers, on whose behalf he used to sail to the coast of France and purchase goods, which he brought to England; and in this capacity he proved very serviceable to the gang.

It is evident that these men must have greatly injured the revenue, and the fair trader; for they had a number of warehouses in different parts of Suffex, for the concealment of their goods; and kept not less than fifty horses, some of which they sent loaded to London, and others to the fairs round the country.

Perin being in France in the year 1747, bought a large quantity of goods, which he loaded on board a cutter, with a view to run them on the coast of Suffex: but, as several smuggling vessels were expected at this juncture, captain Johnson, who commanded a cutter in the government's service, received orders to sail in search of them.

In consequence hereof, he sailed from Poole, and took the smuggling cutter above mentioned on the following day; but Perin and his accomplices escaped, by taking to their boat. Capt. Johnson found the cargo to consist of brandy and tea to a very large amount, which he carried safe into the harbour of Poole.

Soon

Soon after this transaction, which happened in the month of September, the whole body of smugglers assembled in Charlton-park, to consult if there was any possibility of recovering the goods of which they had thus been deprived. After many schemes had been proposed and rejected, Perin recommended that they should go in a body, armed, and break open the Custom-house at Poole; and this proposal being acceded to, a paper was drawn up, by way of bond, that they should support each other; and this was signed by all the parties.

This agreement, which was filled with dreadful curses on each other, in case of failure to execute it, was signed on the sixth of October; and having provided themselves with swords and fire-arms, they met on the following day; and having concealed themselves in a wood till the evening, they proceeded towards Poole, where they arrived about eleven at night.

As soon as they got thither, they sent Willis and Stringer, two of the gang, to observe if there were any persons watching near the Custom-house. Willis soon came back, and informed them that he thought it would not be safe to make the attempt, as a sloop of war lay opposite the quay, so that she could point her guns against the door of the Custom-house. On this the body of the smugglers were for desisting from the enterprize: when Kingmill and Fairall addressed them, saying, "If you will not do it, we will do it ourselves;" but these words were no sooner spoken, than Stringer came back, and told them that it would be impossible for the sloop to bring her guns to bear, on account of the ebb-tide.

Animated by this intelligence, they rode to the sea-coast, where Perin and another of the gang



took care of their horses, while the main body of them went back to the Custom-house; in their way to which meeting with a boy, they took him with them, to prevent his alarming the inhabitants.

Having forced the door open with hatchets and other instruments, they carried off the smuggled goods, with which they loaded their horses; and, travelling all night, stopped in the morning at a place named Fording's-bridge.

The number of smugglers were thirty, and their horses thirty-one. Continuing their journey to a place named Brook, they divided the booty into equal shares, and then departed, each to his own house.

This daring transaction being represented to the secretaries of state, king George the second gave orders for issuing a proclamation, with a reward for the apprehension of the offenders: yet it was a considerable time before any of them were taken into custody; some of them being concerned in the murder of Chater and Galley, of which we have already given an account, and others escaping to France.

At length two of the smugglers, who had been evidences against those hanged at Chichester, gave intelligence of the usual place of meeting of the others; in consequence of which Fairall, Kingsmill, Perin, and another named Glover, were taken into custody, and conducted to Newgate.

When they were brought to trial, the evidences, whose names were Raisé and Steel, confirmed the particulars which we have above recited; in consequence of which the prisoners, who could not disprove the testimony, were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death: but the jury recommended Glover as an object of the royal clemency.

Fairall



*The Smuggler breaking open the Custom House at Poole, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> 1747.*





Fairall behaved most insolently on his trial; and threatened one of the witnesses sworn against him. After conviction, Glover exhibited every proof of penitence: but the rest were totally hardened in their guilt; and insisted that they had not been guilty of any robbery, because they only took goods that had once belonged to them.

Orders were given that Fairall and Kingsmill should be hung in chains; but it was permitted that the body of Perin should be delivered to his friends: and the latter lamenting the fate of his associates, Fairall said, “ We shall be hanging up “ in the sweet air, when you are rotting in your “ grave:” so hardened and unfeeling was the heart of this man.

Their friends being permitted to see them on the night before they suffered, a pardon was brought for Glover while they were in discourse together; and a few days afterwards he obtained his liberty. Fairall kept smoking with his acquaintance, till he was ordered by the keeper to retire to his cell; a circumstance that much enraged him; on which he exclaimed, “ Why in such a hurry? cannot you let “ me stay a little longer with my friends?—I shall “ not be able to drink with them to-morrow night.”

On the following day, Perin was carried to the place of execution, in a mourning coach; as were the two others in a cart, with a guard of horse and foot guards. The behaviour of Fairall and Kingsmill was remarkably undaunted; but all of them joined in devotion with the ordinary of Newgate, when they came to the fatal tree.

These malefactors suffered at Tyburn, on the 26th of April, 1749; and the bodies of Kingsmill and Fairall were hung in chains in the county of Kent,



It was a strange error in the conduct of these men, to plead that they had not been guilty of robbery, because the goods had once been their own. If they had reflected for a moment, they would have considered, that when these goods were first taken from them, they had been obtained in an illicit manner, contrary to the express declaration of the laws of the land.

It is to be lamented that our laws against smugglers are not much more severe. The man who at once defrauds the revenue, and injures the fair trader, is certainly full as culpable as he that takes a purse on the highway; and it is to be hoped that the time will come when the punishment will be at least equal.

A law to make it felony to receive smuggled goods, knowing them to be such, would do honour to the legislature; but till such a law passes, it behoves every honest house-keeper to discourage this unlawful trade, by steadily refusing ever to give encouragement to those who offer them cheap bargains of smuggled articles; in which, it is ten to one but they are defrauded.

The behaviour of Kingsmill and Fairall, hardened as they were in guilt, affords a shocking proof how naturally the commission of one crime leads to that of another; and should inspire us devoutly to pray, that we may not be led into temptation; but be supported in all good resolutions, which will naturally tend to promote our happiness here and hereafter.





A particular Account of the Case of JOHN MILLS, who was hanged for *Murder*.

**T**HIS malefactor, whose crimes were more atrocious than language can express, was the son of Richard Mills, one of the smugglers executed for the murder of Chater and Galley; in which murder he was likewise concerned; and also in the breaking open the custom-house at Poole.

Mills and some associates travelling over Hindheath, saw the judges on their road to Chichester, to try the murderers of Chater and Galley; on which young Mills proposed to rob them; but the other parties refused to have any concern in such an affair.

Soon after his father and his accomplices were hanged, Mills thought of going to Bristol, with a view of embarking for France; and having hinted his intentions to some others, they resolved to accompany him; and stopping at a house on the road, they met with one Richard Hawkins, whom they asked to go with them; but the poor fellow hesitating, they put him on horseback behind Mills, and carried him to the Dog and Partridge on Slendon common, which was kept by John Reynolds.

They had not been long in the house, when complaint was made that two bags of tea had been stolen, and Hawkins was charged with the robbery. He steadily denied any knowledge of the affair: but this not satisfying the villains, they obliged him to pull off his cloaths; and having likewise stripped themselves, they began to whip him with the most unrelenting barbarity; and Curtis, one of the gang, said he did know of the robbery, and if  
he

he would not confess, he would whip him till he did; for he had whipped many a rogue, and washed his hands in his blood.

These blood-thirsty villains continued whipping the poor wretch till their breath was almost exhausted; while he begged them to spare his life, on account of his wife and child. Hawkins drawing up his legs, to defend himself in some measure from their blows, they kicked him on the groin in a manner too shocking to be described; continually asking him what was become of the tea. At length the unfortunate man mentioned something of his father and brother; on which Mills and one Curtis said they would go and fetch them: but Hawkins expired soon after they had left the house.

Rowland, one of the accomplices, now locked the door; and putting the key in his pocket, he and Thomas Winter (who was afterwards admitted evidence) went out to meet Curtis and Mills, whom they saw riding up a lane leading from an adjacent village, having each a man behind him. Winter desiring to speak with his companions, the other men stood at a distance, while he asked Curtis what he meant to do with them, and he said to confront them with Hawkins.

Winter now said that Hawkins was dead, and begged that no more mischief might be done; but Curtis replied, "By G— we will go thro' it now:" but at length they permitted them to go home, saying that when they were wanted they should be sent for.

The murderers now coming back to the public-house, Reynolds said, "You have ruined me;" but Curtis replied that he would make him amends. Having consulted how they should dispose of the body, it was proposed to throw it into a well in an adjacent





*Mills & Rowland whipping Rich<sup>d</sup> Hawkins to death.*





adjacent park: but this being objected to, they carried it twelve miles, and having tied stones to it, in order to sink it, they threw it into a pond in Parham-park, belonging to sir Cecil Bishop; and in this place it lay more than two months before it was discovered.

This horrid and unprovoked murder gave rise to a royal proclamation, in which a pardon was offered to any persons, even outlawed smugglers, except those who had been guilty of murder, or concerned in breaking open the custom-house at Poole, on the condition of discovering the persons who had murdered Hawkins, particularly Mills, who was charged with having had a concern in this horrid transaction.

Hereupon William Pring, an outlawed smuggler, who had not had any share in either of the crimes excepted in the proclamation, went to the secretary of state, and informed him that he would find Mills if he could be ascertained of his own pardon; and added, that he believed he was either at Bath or Bristol.

Being assured that he need not doubt of the pardon, he set out for Bristol, where he found Mills, and with him Thomas and Lawrence Kemp, brothers, the former of whom had broke out of Newgate, and the other was outlawed by proclamation. Having consulted on their desperate circumstances, Pring offered them a retreat at his house near Beckenham in Kent, whence they might make excursions, and commit robberies on the highway.

Pleased with this proposal, they set out with Pring, and arrived in safety at his house, where they had not been long before he pretended that his horse being an indifferent one, and theirs remarkably good, he would go and procure another,

and then they would proceed on their intended expeditions.

Thus saying, he set out, and they agreed to wait for his return; but instead of going to procure a horse, he went to the house of Mr. Rackster, an officer of the excise at Horsham, who taking with him seven or eight armed men, went to Beckenham at night, where they found Mills and the two brothers Kemp just going to supper on a breast of veal. They immediately secured the brothers, by tying their arms: but Mills, making resistance, was cut with a hanger before he would submit.

The offenders being taken, were conducted to the county gaol for Suffex, and, being secured till the assizes, were removed to East-Grinstead, where the brothers Kemp were tried for highway robberies, convicted, sentenced, and executed.

Mills being tried for the murder of Hawkins, was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death, and to be hung in chains near the place where the murder was committed.

After conviction he mentioned several robberies in which he had been concerned, but refused to tell the names of any of his accomplices; declaring that he thought he should merit damnation, if he made any discoveries by means of which any of his companions might be apprehended and convicted.

The country being at that time filled with smugglers, a rescue was feared; wherefore he was conducted to the place of execution by a guard of soldiers; and when there prayed with a clergyman, confessed that he had led a bad life, acknowledged the murder of Hawkins, desired that all young people would take warning by his untimely end, humbly implored the forgiveness of God, and professed to die in charity with all mankind.

He

He was executed on Slendon common on the 12th of August, 1749, and afterwards hung in chains near the same spot.

From this story may be learnt how naturally the commission of small crimes leads to that of greater. Smugglers having acquired habits of dishonesty, and engaged in acts of cruelty, proceed without remorse to the perpetration of murder, till their crimes end in an ignominious death.

Young people cannot be too cautious in the choice of their company: their whole fate is frequently determined by the outset in life; and many an one is rendered wretched by a neglect of chusing virtuous companions in his early days.

It is a more laborious task to be diligent in wickedness than in virtue; and, while it produces nothing but uneasiness in this life, promises nothing but wretchedness in the next.

May the goodness of God prevent the readers of this work from falling into such deplorable circumstances, as may render them objects of contempt to their fellow-creatures, and unfit for the reception of the divine mercy!



Account of HUGH DAWSON and JOHN GAMMELL, who were hanged at *Kennington Common* for a *Robbery*.

**D**AWSON was the son of a bookseller at Londonderry in Ireland, who sent him to sea in a trading vessel, the property of one of his relations. After the first voyage, he remained some time at home, and did not seem to entertain any

farther thoughts of going to sea; but falling in love with a young woman in the neighbourhood, she promised him marriage, but advised him to follow his former occupation some time longer.

In consequence of this advice he went again to sea, and on his return from each voyage visited his favourite girl: but at length it was discovered by her parents that she was pregnant by her lover. Alarmed by this circumstance, they proposed to Dawson's father to give her a fortune proportioned to what they would bestow on their son; but this the old man obstinately refused, though the son earnestly entreated him to accede to the proposal.

Hereupon young Dawson left his parents, swore he would never again return home, and went once more to sea. Having made some voyages, the vessel in which he sailed put into the harbour of Sandwich; on which Dawson quitted a sea-faring life, and married a girl of fortune, who bore him two children, which were left to the care of her relations at her death, which happened six years after the marriage.

On this event Dawson went again to sea, and was in several naval engagements. When his ship was paid off he went to Bristol, where he was arrested for a debt he had contracted. At this period he heard of the death of his father, and that his mother's affection for him was in no degree diminished; on which he wrote her an account of his situation; and she sent him fifty pounds, which relieved him from his embarrassments.

Having procured his liberty, he went to London, and marrying the widow of a seaman, who possessed some money, they lived in harmony a considerable time, till making a connexion with dissolute companions,



panions, he commenced the practices which led to his ruin.

Gammell, who had been a ship-mate with Dawson, was one of these companions, and being now out of employment, advised him to go on the highway. He hesitated for some time: but having drank freely, his resolution failed him, and he agreed to the fatal proposal.

These accomplices dressed themselves as sailors, and concealing bludgeons under their jackets, knocked down the persons they intended to rob, and stripped them of their effects.

The robbery which cost them their lives was committed near New-cross turnpike, on a gentleman named Outridge, from whom they took his money and watch, and treated him with great barbarity. Being pursued by some people whom Mr. Outridge informed of the robbery, Dawson was overtaken and confined; and having given information where Gammell lodged, he likewise was apprehended; and both of them being conveyed to the New Gaol, Southwark, they mutually recriminated on each other.

On the approach of the assizes for Surry, the prisoners were carried to Croydon, where they were both tried and capitally convicted. After passing sentence, Dawson was visited by a Roman catholic priest, who intimated that he had heard he was of the Romish religion: but the other said he would die in the protestant faith, in which he had been educated: but notwithstanding this declaration, and his regular attendance on the forms of the protestant mode, there was reason to conclude that he was a catholic, from a paper that was found in his cell after his death.

On

On the night preceding the execution, the behaviour of Dawson evidenced the distraction of his mind. He was visited by his wife, who had sitten some time with him, when the turnkey came, and intimated that he must retire; on which he refused to go, and knocked the fellow down; but others of the keepers coming, he was secured. His wife would now have taken a final leave of him; and he said if she did not depart he would murder her.

As the keepers were conducting him through the court-yard to his cell, he called to the other prisoners, saying, "Hollo! my boys! Dawson is "to be hanged to-morrow."

The prisoners were conveyed to the place of execution in the same cart; and when there Dawson expressed his hope of salvation through the merits of Jesus Christ, and declared he died in charity with all men. Gammell addressed the surrounding multitude, particularly hoping that his brother-seamen would avoid the commission of such crimes as led to his deplorable end. He hoped forgiveness from all whom he had injured, and acknowledged that he fell a victim to the equity of the laws.

These men were hanged at Kennington-common on the 22d of August, 1749.

On considering this story, it may be proper to reprobate the conduct of Dawson's father, who would not contribute what he was able, to empower him to do justice to a poor girl whom he had injured, whom he sincerely loved, who indisputably loved him, and who would probably have made him a good wife, and saved him from the ignominious fate which was the consequence of his future crimes.

Proper

Proper as it may be to expatiate on the duty of children to parents, it cannot be less proper to remark on that duty which parents owe to children. These obligations are indeed reciprocal; and if a child is bound to pay obedience to the father who protects and educates him, the father is not less bound to treat with kindness and humanity the child who owes his being to him.

Happy are those families where fathers and sons, where mothers and daughters, live in mutual love and confidence, in a constant regard and unabating esteem for each other. It is a life like this which makes HOME at all times the most agreeable of places, and constitutes a little heaven upon earth!



Account of THOMAS NEALE, and WILLIAM BOWEN, who were hanged at *Kennington Common*, for a *Robbery* on the *Highway*.

THOMAS NEALE was a native of Denbigh in North Wales, and trained to the business of husbandry; but quitting the country while young, he entered on board a man of war; and soon became so distinguished by that kind of brutal bravery which is too often distinguished by the name of courage, that, when it was necessary to employ press-gangs, he was frequently put at their head, in which station he gave such proofs of an unrelenting disposition, as seemed fully to justify the choice that had been made\*.

The

---

\* The employment of press-gangs has been pleaded for as necessary; but it is inconsistent with the rights of a free people, as well as the common laws of humanity.

The proclamation of peace occasioning the discharge of many seamen, Neale was paid off, and bringing his wages to London, he soon wasted his money in the most dissipated manner, and in the worst of company; and then had recourse to the dangerous practices of a footpad-robber.

On a particular occasion he stole a tankard from an inn in Hertfordshire, for which he was apprehended, and lodged in the county-gaol, and being tried at the next assizes, was capitally convicted; but obtained a pardon (on the condition of transporting himself for seven years) through the interest of the late duke of Cumberland.

Having given bail thus to transport himself, he entertained no thought of fulfilling the contract; but immediately associating with Bowen and other villains, they committed a variety of robberies in the adjacencies of London.

WILLIAM BOWEN was a native of Londonderry, in Ireland. His parents, who kept an inn, and lived respectably, proposed that he should succeed them in their business; but an attachment to bad company led him astray from the paths of duty.

His father dying just before he came of age, left him the inn, on the condition of his supporting his mother, a brother, and two young sisters: but the young man, deaf to every prudent consideration, associated with people whose circumstances were much superior to his own, to the neglect of that business which would have supported the family.

Aware of the decay of his trade, and the consequent ruin that stared him in the face, he came over to London with all the cash he could secure, and fell into company with people who assisted him to spend his money; and when that was gone, he entered on board a ship as a common sailor.



The seamen having received their wages, Bowen got into company with his old associates and some women of ill-fame, with whom he spent to the last shilling, and then had recourse, for support, to the committing robberies in the neighbourhood of London, particularly near Stepney and Mile-End.

One of Bowen's companions being apprehended for picking pockets, he and others joined to rescue him, as the peace-officers were conveying him to Newgate in a coach.

The public being alarmed by this daring rescue, Bowen did not think it safe to stay in London; and having heard that his brother, then a seaman, was at Liverpool, went thither in search of him; but, on his arrival, he learnt that having received a large sum as prize-money, he was failed to see his friends in Ireland.

Bowen immediately wrote to Londonderry; but not having a letter in return, he came to the metropolis in the most distressed circumstances; when going to a house where he had formerly lodged, he was informed that Neale had been to enquire for him; and on the following day Neale came to see him, in company with a man named Vincent.

After drinking together, Neale said to Bowen, "Come and take a ride with me." Bowen said he had no money; but the other told him that would soon be procured. On this Neale went out to borrow him a pair of boots; while Bowen went with Vincent to his lodgings, where the latter gave him a hanger and a pair of pistols, which Bowen concealed under a great coat; and then all the parties met at an alehouse in Southwark, whence they went to an inn, and hired horses, on the pretence of going to Gravesend; instead of which they went

towards Kingston, where Vincent had a relation who belonged to the Oxford Blues.

In their way they purchased a whip for Bowen, and loaded their pistols. On their arrival at Kingston, they went to a public-house, and sending for Vincent's kinsman, they all dined together, and drank themselves into a state of perfect intoxication.

Having paid their reckoning, they mounted their horses, determined on the commission of robbery; and meeting a gentleman named Ryley, Bowen pulled him from his horse, and in the same instant quitted his own. Mr. Ryley ran off; but Bowen following him, threw him down, and kneeling on his breast, the other entreated that he would not hurt him. Bowen threatened his instant destruction if he did not quietly submit, and having robbed him of his watch and money, bade him run after his horse, which had quitted the place on Neale's whipping him; and in the interim Vincent watched, lest any person should come up to interrupt them.

The highwaymen now rode towards London, and when they came near Wandsworth determined to go to Fulham, and thence to town by the way of Hyde-park Corner. Having divided the booty (except a thirty-six shilling-piece, which Bowen secreted) at the Greyhound inn near Piccadilly, they supped and slept at that house.

In the morning they told the landlord that they wanted to go towards Highgate; but were not well acquainted with the road. As they had been good customers, the landlord begged to treat them with half a pint of rum, and then went a little way with them, to shew them the nearest road.

Having arrived at Highgate, they drank at that place, and then determined to proceed to Barnet,

at

at which place they put up their horses, and called for rum and water, of which they swallowed such quantities, that Vincent and Bowen fell fast asleep.

In the mean time Neale endeavoured to secrete a silver pint mug; but being detected in the attempt, he was taken before a magistrate, and loaded pistols being found on him, orders were given that his companions should likewise be taken into custody; and all of them were lodged in the county-gaol.

At the next assizes an order was made for their discharge (as nothing appeared against them), on their giving security for their good behaviour. For this purpose they wrote to London to procure bail: but Mr. Ryley hearing that three men of doubtful character were in the gaol of Hertford, went thither, and immediately knew that they were the parties by whom he had been robbed.

Hereupon a detainer was lodged against them, and they were removed for trial at the Surry assizes, previous to the holding of which Vincent was admitted an evidence for the crown. His testimony corroborating that of Mr. Ryley, Neale and Bowen were found guilty, and sentenced to die.

Being lodged in the New Goal, Southwark, Bowen was taken ill, and continued so till the time of his execution. He behaved with some degree of resignation to his fate: but was violent in his exclamations against Vincent, on account of his turning evidence.

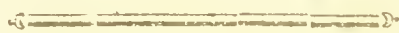
Neale evinced no concern on account of his unhappy situation: but behaved in a manner more hardened than language can express. At the place of execution he paid no regard to the devotions, but laughed at the populace while he played with the rope which was to put a period to his life. After the cap was drawn over his face, he put it

up again, and addressed the people in the following shocking terms: “ I shall very soon see my  
“ lord Balmerino. He was a very good friend of  
“ mine; so that is what I had to say, and damn  
“ you all together.”—He then drew the cap over his eyes, and launched into eternity.

These men were hanged at Kennington-common on the 22d of August, 1749.

Without adverting to the crime for which these men suffered, it is impossible to dismiss this story, and not take notice of the horrid and unexampled manner in which Neale quitted the world. Shocking as the practice of swearing is at all times, a curse denounced on our neighbour at the moment of quitting life, has something in it too dreadful even to be thought of. It is but christian charity to hope that this man was in a state of phrenzy when he pronounced his last words: for what, otherwise, can we think of the fate of the wretch who could thus quit this mortal being? The most hardened are generally serious on so dreadful an occasion; and indeed it would be doubly dreadful if they were not.

We know that the Divine Author of our being is a GOD of infinite MERCY; but we should remember also that he is a GOD of JUSTICE!



Account of BOSAVERN PENLEZ, who was executed at *Tyburn* for having a Concern in a Riot.

**T**HIS unhappy youth (for he can hardly be deemed a malefactor) was the son of a native of the island of Jersey, who having been educated  
at



at Oxford, entered into orders, and having obtained a small church-preferment, settled near Exeter, where his unfortunate son was born.

His father dying while he was young he was placed as an apprentice to a barber and peruke-maker at Exeter by the stewards of the sons of the clergy. Having served his apprenticeship with the highest reputation for good character and sobriety, he came to London, and lived in several places with the utmost credit, till a circumstance equally unpremeditated and unforeseen occasioned his destruction.

On Saturday the 1st of July, 1749, three seamen belonging to the Grafton man-of-war, having called at a house of ill-fame in the Strand, were there robbed of their watches, a bank-note value 20l. four moidores, and thirty guineas.

The seamen demanded a reparation of their loss; instead of which some bullies belonging to the house pushed them from the door, whereupon they went away, denouncing vengeance; and having collected a number of their companions in the neighbourhood of Wapping, they returned at night, broke upon the house, turned the women almost naked into the streets, ripped up the beds, threw the feathers out of the window, broke the furniture in pieces, and made a bonfire of it.

Having proceeded to behave in a similar manner at another house of ill-fame, a party of the guards was sent for, and the mob, for the present, dispersed.

On the following day, being Sunday, immense numbers of people crowded to see the ruins of the bawdy-houses; and on this day Bosavern Penlez went to the house of Mr. Pearce in Wych-street, where he had left some cloaths; and when he had  
cleaned

cleaned himself, he visited an acquaintance named Taylor, with whom he drank at a public-house, dined, and spent the afternoon with him.

In the evening Penlez walked in Somerset gardens, and at eight o'clock went back to his friend Taylor, who being engaged with company, Penlez declined staying, and proceeded to meet an acquaintance at the Horseshoe near Temple-bar. Having drunk some beer with him, he was returning to his lodgings, when he unfortunately met with another acquaintance, who told him it was his birthday, and begged he would drink some punch with him.

This request being complied with, Penlez became quite intoxicated, and in his way home found a mob at the door of the Star Tavern\* near Temple-bar, endeavouring to destroy what the seamen had left undemolished. Many of the people got into the house, and did great damage; and Penlez, with John Wilson, and Benjamin Launder, were taken into custody.

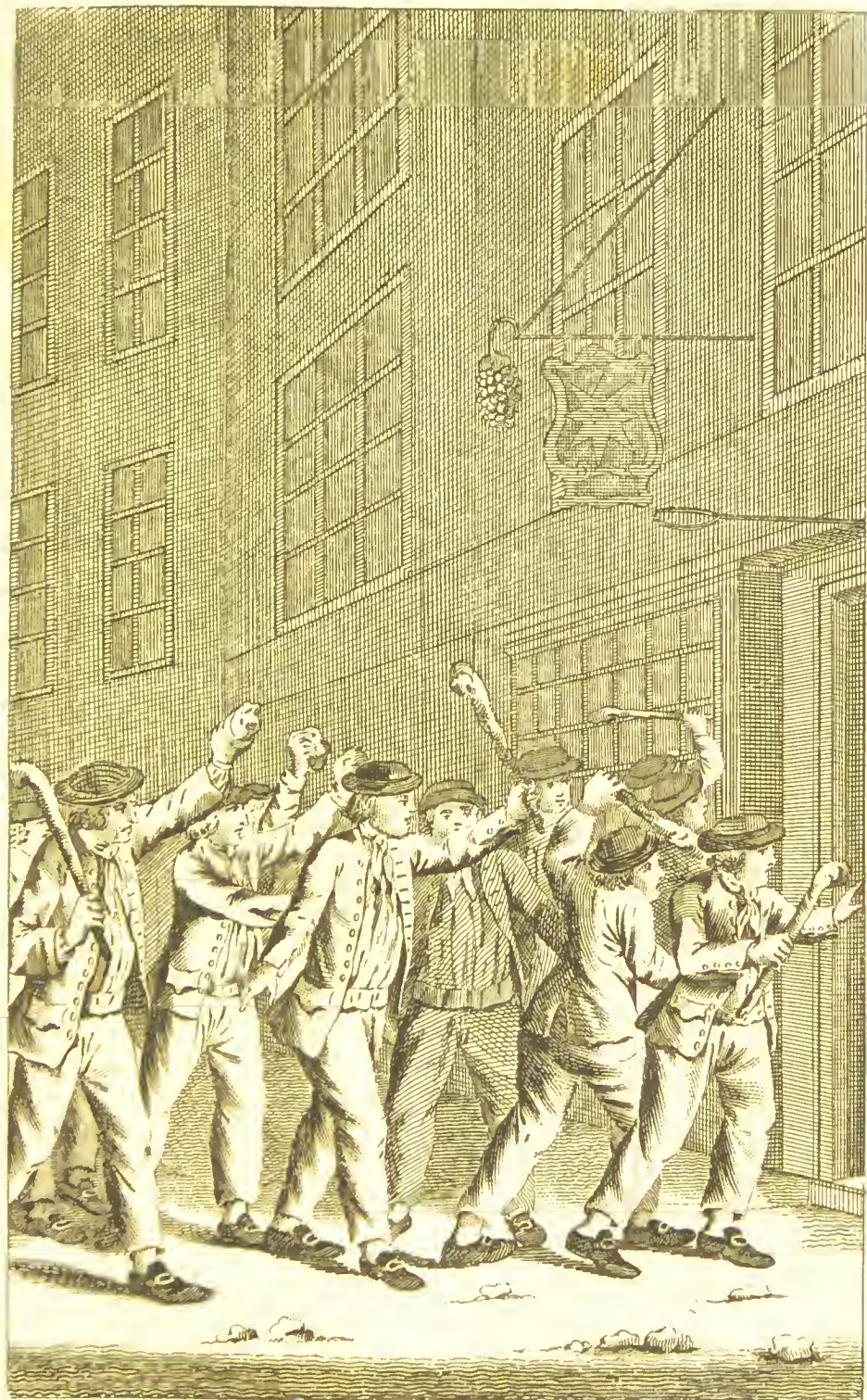
Being brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, the evidences were Peter Wood (the landlord) his wife, and one Reeves, their servant, who positively swore to the commission of the facts alledged in the indictment.

To discredit their testimony, Mr. John Mixon, the collector of the scavenger's rate, deposed, that he did not think the oath of Mr. or Mrs. Wood was to be taken; and that he would not hang a cat or a dog on their evidence. He added, that the house they kept was of the most notorious ill-fame; that the rates were paid in the name of Thompson; that

---

\* This house was kept by a fellow named Peter Wood, whose name will be branded with infamy, as long as this unhappy story is remembered.





*The Mob attempting to pull down Peter Wood, Bowdler  
' House in the Strand.*





that Wood and his wife had been often prosecuted for keeping a disorderly house; and that the neighbours were afraid to appear against them.

In the course of the trial Wood swore, “ that  
 “ the mob amounted to about seven hundred  
 “ people; that eight or ten of them came into  
 “ his parlour, among whom were Wilson and  
 “ Penlez; that they broke the partition with their  
 “ sticks, pulled out the pieces with their hands,  
 “ destroyed all the furniture in the parlour, and  
 “ threw it into the street; broke down his bar,  
 “ and knocked him down on the stairs;” with  
 many other circumstances, tending to prove the riot, and that the prisoners were concerned in it.

Several persons of reputation appeared to the characters of the prisoners: but the positive evidence against them induced the jury to convict Penlez and Wilson; but Launder was acquitted.

The inhabitants of the parish of St. Clement-Dane, and many individuals made great interest to save these unfortunate youths, in consequence of which Wilson was reprieved; but Penlez was ordered for execution.

It is said that the king was disposed to have pardoned them both; but that lord chief justice Willes, before whom they were tried, declared in council that no regard would be paid to the laws, except one of them was made an example of. Our accounts inform us, that the king still inclined to pardon them both; and that the chief justice was three times sent for, and consulted on this occasion; but that he still persisted in his former opinion\*.

After

---

\* It is a well-known fact that lord chief justice Willes was a steady assertor of the dignity of the law; therefore it could not be supposed that he could have any prejudice against the convict.

After conviction Penlez behaved in such a manner as evidently testified the goodness of his disposition; and the little probability there was of such a man committing a wilful, premeditated crime. It is not in language to describe how much he was pitied by the public. Every one wished his pardon, and wondered, without considering the necessity that there was for an example, that he was not pardoned.

When the day of execution arrived, he prepared to meet his fate with the consciousness of an innocent man, and the courage of a christian. The late sir Stephen Theodore Janssen, chamberlain of London, was at that time sheriff; and a number of soldiers waiting at Holborn bars, to conduct Penlez to Tyburn (as a rescue was apprehended), the sheriff politely dismissed them, asserting that the civil power was sufficient to carry the edicts of law into effectual execution.

This unhappy youth was executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of October, 1749:

The worthy inhabitants of St. Clements-Dane, who had been among the foremost in soliciting a pardon for Penlez, finding all their efforts ineffectual, did all possible honour to his memory, by burying him in a distinguished manner, in a church-yard of their parish, on the evening after his unfortunate exit, which happened in the 23d year of his age.

Instead of making any reflections on this case, we shall insert the following piece, which will sufficiently declare the sentiments of the public on this interesting occasion.

A MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTION intended for PENLEZ, the person who was executed for assisting to demolish the bawdy houses in the Strand.

To the memory of the unfortunate  
 BOSAVERN PENLEZ,  
 Who finished a life, generally well reported of,  
 By a violent and ignominious death.  
 He was the son of a clergyman,  
 To whom he was indebted for an education, which  
 he so wisely improved  
 As to merit the love and esteem of all that  
 knew him :  
 But actuated by principles, in themselves truly  
 laudable,  
 (When rightly directed, and properly restrained)  
 He was hurried by a ZEAL for his countrymen,  
 And an honest detestation of PUBLIC STEWS,  
 (The most certain BANE of YOUTH,  
 and the DISGRACE of GOVERNMENT)  
 To engage in an undertaking, which the most  
 partial cannot defend,  
 And yet the least candid must excuse.  
 For thus indeliberately mixing with rioters,  
 whom he accidentally met with,  
 He was condemned to die.  
 And of 400\* persons concerned in the same attempt  
 he only suffered,  
 Though neither principal nor contriver.  
 How well he deserved life, appears  
 From his generous contempt of it, in forbidding a  
 rescue of himself :  
 And what returns he would have made  
 TO ROYAL CLEMENCY,  
 Had it been extended to him, may fairly be  
 presumed

---

\* Wood's testimony says *seven* hundred, but this  
 must have been given by guess.

From his noble endeavours to prevent the least  
affront to that power,

Which, though greatly importuned, refused  
to save him.

What was denied to his person, was paid to his  
ashes,

By the inhabitants of St. Clement's-Dane,  
Who ordered him to be interred among their  
brethren,

Defrayed the charges of his funeral,  
And thought no mark of pity or respect too much  
For this unhappy youth,

Whose death was occasioned by no other fault  
But a too warm indignation for their sufferings.

By his sad example, reader! be admonished  
Of the many ill consequences that attend an in-  
temperate zeal.

Learn hence to respect the laws—even the most  
oppressive;

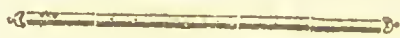
And think thyself happy under that government

“ That doth *truly* and *indifferently* administer  
“ justice,

“ To the punishment of WICKEDNESS and VICE,

“ And to the maintenance of God's TRUE

“ RELIGION and VIRTUE.”



Account of BENJAMIN NEALE, who was  
hanged for *House-Breaking*.

THIS offender was the son of an apothecary  
at Extel in Warwickshire, and having re-  
ceived a good education, was apprenticed to a  
capital baker at Coventry. During his apprentice-



ship his conduct was very reprehensible; for he would frequently stay out whole nights, and return to his master's house in the morning in a state of intoxication.

With some difficulty he served to the end of his time, when several of the inhabitants of Coventry recommended it to his father to put him into business, and promised to deal with him; and the father enabled him to begin the world in a creditable manner. For a considerable time he had such success in business, that he became the principal baker in the place; and he married the daughter of one of the aldermen, with whom he received a good fortune; and would soon have been a rich man, if he had paid a proper attention to his business: however, it was not long after he received his wife's fortune, before he began to give himself such airs of consequence, as rendered him disagreeable to his wife, and made the servants look on him as a perfect tyrant.

To this behaviour succeeded a neglect of his business, which visibly declined, while he frequented cock-pits and horse-races. It was in vain that his father and his wife remonstrated on the impropriety of this conduct, and represented its inconsistency with the life of a tradesman: he continued his courses till his character was lost, and he was reduced to labour as a journeyman baker.

Unable to submit with decency to a fate which he had brought on himself, he wandered about the country, picking up a casual and doubtful subsistence. Returning one night to Coventry, he found his mother, his wife, and child, in company. He demanded money; but they refusing to supply him, he threatened to murder them, and was proceeding to put his threats in execution, when their cries

alarmed the neighbours, and prevented the perpetration of the deed : but this affair had such an effect on his wife, that she was seized with a fever, which soon put a period to her life.

This disaster did not seem to make any impression on his mind ; for travelling soon afterwards into Staffordshire, he married a second wife ; but returning to Coventry, he privately sold off his effects, and left the poor woman in circumstances of great distress.

It was not long after this before he commenced highwayman, and committed a variety of robberies on different roads ; and at length became a house-breaker, which brought him to a fatal end.

At Farnham in Surry lived a gentleman of fortune named Newton, at whose house Neale thought he might acquire a considerable booty ; and in pursuance of this plan he broke into the house at four o'clock in the morning, and forcing open a bureau, he stole several bank notes, an East India bond, between fifty and sixty pounds in money, some medals of gold, and several other valuable articles.

Mr. Newton no sooner discovered the robbery, than he sent off a messenger, with a letter to his brother in London, requesting that he would advertise the loss, and stop payment of the notes.

When Neale had committed the robbery, he likewise proceeded towards London ; and when he came to Brentford offered some watermen three and six pence to row him to town : but this they refused ; and Neale had no sooner got into another boat, which was putting from the shore, than the messenger arrived at Brentford ; and the watermen, having entertained a suspicion of Neale, asked the man if he was in pursuit of a thief ; and he replying in the affirmative, they pointed to the boat in which Neale was sitting.

On this the messenger hired another boat, and having overtaken him, found him wrapped up in a waterman's coat. The criminal being conducted before a magistrate, the stolen effects were found in his possession; on which he was ordered for commitment, and conveyed to Newgate the same day.

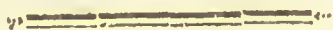
When the assizes for Surry began, he was sent to Guildford, where he was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die. After conviction, his behaviour was such as might have been expected from one who was too hardened to repent of crimes which he could not hesitate to commit. His conduct was so totally improper for his situation, that even the keepers of the goal seemed to be shocked at his want of feeling, and advised him to amend his manners: but their advice was lost on one of the most abandoned of the human race.

This malefactor suffered on the 12th of April, 1750.

On a retrospect of this case, it will appear that Neale's ignominious death arose principally from his dissolute conduct while an apprentice, which rivetted on him those habits of vice that contaminated all his future life. His friends were reputable, his prospects excellent, and his business was good: but a habit of idleness, and a love of what is falsely called pleasure, (for there can be no real pleasure in vice) made his friends forsake him, destroyed his business, and overclouded all the hopeful prospects of his life.

From his fate let the rising generation learn the importance of diligence and sobriety: let them learn to obey their parents and masters, and all that are put in authority over them, as they would wish to be happy parents, and reputable masters themselves, and have the pleasure of being obeyed  
in

in their turn in all their reasonable commands : so may they hope to live in credit, and die with the blessings of all who know them.



Account of the extraordinary case of MARGARET HARVEY, who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for *Privately Stealing*.

**T**HIS woman was a native of the city of Dublin, descended from parents of reputation, who having educated her in a very decent manner, she married the valet of a nobleman when she was only sixteen years of age ; and her husband soon afterwards procuring a lieutenant's commission on board a man of war, sailed in the service of his country.

Returning after an absence of six months, he became extremely jealous of his wife ; but we have no account that he had then any cause for such jealousy. Be this as it may, he treated her with such severity that she left him, in apprehension that her life was in danger.

Some of her relations afforded her present support ; but when they began to think her troublesome, she went to her parents, who received her with the utmost affection : but her husband had art enough to persuade her father that she had no good cause to have left him ; on which the old man insisted on her returning to her duty as a wife.

When she was again at home with him, he treated her no less cruelly than heretofore ; and on a particular occasion, without any previous quarrel, he cut her on the arms and head with a hanger, so  
that



that she carried the marks to the grave; yet still she continued to love him with unabating affection.

At length, when she was on a visit, in company with several other women, and complaining of the cruelty of her husband, they recommended her to avenge herself by quitting him, and putting herself under the protection of a gentleman, who knew her situation, pitied her case, and would be proud to become her benefactor.

Fatally for her repose, she listened to this advice, and went to live with the stranger: on which her husband left Dublin, and set out for London.

The man who had thus been the indirect means of seducing her from her duty, soon grew tired of her company, and quitted her, leaving her in circumstances of utter distress.

In this dilemma, she determined to go in search of her husband, and solicit his forgiveness; and with this view sailed for England, and travelled to London: but her enquiries after him proving fruitless, she went into service in Marybone-street, and remained about four months in that station.

When the fireworks were exhibited in St. James's park, on occasion of the peace with France, she was permitted to go and see the extraordinary sight; and while she was a spectator of that magnificent shew, some women and seamen entered into conversation with her; and going to a public-house, they spent the night and following day in intemperance.

Ashamed now to return to her service, she took a lodging in St. Giles's, and becoming acquainted with some women of ill fame, who were supported by sailors who visited them, she soon became as abandoned in manners as her associates.

Some Irish seamen being acquainted with her, she went with them to Wapping, and having drunk  
very

very freely, she was met on her return home by a gentleman, who took her to a tavern, where she found means to rob him of his gold watch: but being taken into custody that night, she was lodged in the Round-house, and committed to Newgate the following day.

Being brought to trial at the Old-Bailey sessions, she was capitally convicted; but pleading that she was with child, she was respited till the year 1750, when sentence of death was passed on her.

While in this distressed situation, she acknowledged that she should not have pleaded being with child, but that she had hopes of obtaining a pardon on condition of transportation; and on the arrival of the warrant for her execution, she wrung her hands, cried exceedingly, and lamented the misfortunes which first induced her to come to London.

On the morning of her execution she was visited by some of her country-women, who having privately brought in some brandy, induced her to drink such a quantity of it, that she died in an absolute state of intoxication; though before this circumstance she had exhibited every sign of real penitence and contrition.

She was hanged at Tyburn, on the 6th of July, 1750.

The fate of this unhappy woman should teach the rest of her sex never to depart from the paths of virtue. Though she was ill-treated by her husband, she was not justified in repaying his hard usage by a violation of the marriage-bed.

We see how naturally her ill-placed revenge led to her destruction. Her keeper, as is too generally the case, left her a prey to hopeless penitence, and fruitless remorse; and then she sought that husband whom she had so lately abandoned.

It should be remembered that chastity is one of the first female virtues. Solomon's description of a virtuous woman, of which we shall insert a part from the last chapter of his Proverbs, is worthy of being recorded in letters of gold. "She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

---

Account of JAMES COOPER, who was hanged at *Kennington Common*, for Murder.

THIS malefactor was the son of a butcher at Lexton in Essex; and his father, who had wholly neglected his education, employed him in his own business when he was only ten years of age. Having lived with his father till he was twenty-two, he then married, and opened a shop at Colchester, where he dealt largely as a butcher, and likewise became a cattle-jobber.

At the end of thirteen years he found his losses so considerable that he could no longer carry on business; and one of his creditors arresting him, he was thrown into the King's-bench prison; but as his wife still carried on trade, he was enabled to purchase the rules. Soon after this the marshal of the King's-bench dying, he was obliged to pay for the rules a second time.

He now sued for an allowance of the groats \* ; and they were paid him for about a year, when through neglect of payment he got out of prison, and took a shop in the Mint, Southwark, where he carried on his business with some success, his wife maintaining the family in the country.

At length he was arrested by another creditor, and waited two years for the benefit of an act of insolvency. On his going to Guildford, to take the benefit of the act, he found that the marshal had not inserted his name in the list with the names of the other prisoners ; and having informed his creditor of this circumstance, the marshal was obliged to pay debt and costs ; the debtor was discharged, and the marshal fined £. 100, for his neglect.

Cooper having now obtained his liberty, and his wife dying about the same time, and leaving four children, he sent for them to London ; and not long afterwards married a widow, who had an equal number of children.

He now got unfortunately acquainted with Duncalf and Burrell, the former a notorious thief, and the latter a soldier in the guards ; and these men advising him to commence robber, he fatally complied with their solicitations ; and the following is an account of a number of robberies which they committed.

Between Stockwell and Clapham they overtook two men, one of whom speaking of the probability of being attacked by footpads, drew a knife, and swore he would kill any man who should presume  
to

---

\* After a prisoner for debt has been confined a limited time, he may sue the creditor for the payment of *four-pence* per day ; and, in failure of payment, the debtor will obtain his liberty.



to molest them. The parties all drank together on the road, and then proceeded towards London, when Cooper threw down the man that was armed with the knife, and took it from him, and then robbed him and his acquaintance of a watch, about twenty shillings, and their handkerchiefs.

Their next robbery was on Mr. James, a taylor, whom they stopped on the road to Dulwich, and took from him his watch and money. He gave an immediate alarm, which occasioned a pursuit; but the thieves effected an escape. Two of the three robbers wearing soldiers cloaths, Mr. James presumed that they were of the guards, and going to the parade in St. James's park, he fixed on two soldiers as the parties who had robbed him.

As it happened that these men had been to Dulwich about the time that the robbery had been committed, they were sent to prison, and brought to trial; but had the happiness to be acquitted.

The accomplices in iniquity being in waiting for prey near Bromley, Duncalf saw a gentleman riding along the road; and kneeling down, he seized the bridle, and obliged him to quit his horse, when the others robbed him of his watch and two guineas and a half.

Meeting soon afterwards with a man and woman on one horse, near Farnborough in Kent, they ordered them to quit the horse, and robbed them of near forty shillings, and then permitted them to pursue their journey. Soon after the commission of this robbery they heard the voices of a number of people who were in pursuit of them; on which Cooper turned about, and they passed him, but seized on Burrell, one of them exclaiming, "This is one of the rogues that just robbed my brother and sister!"

On this Burrell fired a pistol into the air, to intimidate the pursuers, among whom were two soldiers, whom Duncalf and Cooper encountering at this instant, one of them was so dangerously wounded by his own sword, which Duncalf wrested from his hand, that he was sent as an invalid to Chelsea, where he finished his life.

The brother of the parties robbed, and a countryman, contested the matter with the thieves till the former was thrown on the ground, where Burrell beat him so violently that he died on the spot. The robbers now took their way to London, where they arrived without being pursued.

Cooper and Duncalf, the latter being provided with a bag, went to a farm-house, and stole all the fowls that were at roost; and Duncalf saying, "the first man we meet must buy my chicken;" they had not travelled far before they met with a man, whom they asked to buy the fowls. He said he did not want any; but they seized his horse's bridle, knocked him down, and robbed him of above twelve pounds, with his hat and wig, watch and great coat.

On one of their walks towards Camberwell, they met a man of fortune named Ellish, whose servant was lighting him home from a club. Putting pistols to the gentleman's breast, his servant attempted to defend him; on which they knocked him down with a bludgeon; and the master still hesitating to deliver, they threw him on the ground, and robbed him of his money, watch, and other articles, and tying him and his servant back to back, threw them into a ditch, where they lay in a helpless manner, till a casual passenger released them from their disagreeable situation.

The

The villains now returned towards London: in their way meeting a man with a sack of stolen venison, they robbed him of his great coat and thirty-six shillings; and a few nights afterwards they robbed a man of a few shillings on the Hammer-smith road, and destroyed a lanthorn which he carried, that he should not be able to make any pursuit after them.

On their return home they met a man on horseback, whom they would have robbed; but turning his horse suddenly, he rode to Kensington turnpike, and gave an alarm, while the thieves got through a hedge, and concealed themselves in a field. In the interim the man they had robbed of a few shillings brought a number of people to take the thieves; but not finding them, though within their hearing, the man went towards his home alone, but the rogues pursuing him, took a stick from him and beat him severely, for attempting to raise the country on them.

Immediately afterwards they hastened towards Brompton, and stopped a gentleman, whom they robbed of his watch and money. The gentleman had a dog, which flew at the thieves; but Cooper coaxing the animal into good humour, immediately killed him.

Their next expedition was to Paddington, where they concealed themselves behind a hedge, till observing two persons on horseback, they robbed them of their watches, great coats, and twelve guineas; and though an immediate alarm was given, and many persons pursued them, they escaped over the fields as far as Hampstead-heath, and came from thence to London.

Soon afterwards they stopped a gentleman between Kingland and Stoke Newington, who  
whipped



whipped Duncalf so that he must have yielded, but that Cooper at the instant struck the gentleman to the ground. They then robbed him of above seventeen pounds, and tying his hands behind him, threw him over a hedge, in which situation he remained till some milkmen relieved him on the following morning.

Meeting a man between Knightsbridge and Brompton, who had a shoulder of veal with him, they demanded his money; instead of delivering which the man knocked Cooper down three times with his veal: but the villains getting the advantage, robbed the man of his hat and meat, but could find no money in his possession.

Cooper being incensed against the person who had first arrested him, who was Mrs. Pearson, of Hill-farm in Essex, determined to rob her: on which he and his accomplices went to the place, and learning that she was on a visit, waited till her return at night; when they stopped her and her servant, and robbed them of eight guineas.

On the following day Mrs. Pearson went to a magistrate, and charged a person named Loader with having committed this robbery; but it appearing that this man was a prisoner for debt at the time, the charge necessarily fell to the ground.

Cooper and his associates meeting a farmer named Jackson in a lane near Croydon, he violently opposed them; on which they knocked him down, and dragging him into a field, robbed him of his watch and money, tied him to a tree, and turned his horse loose on a common. For this robbery two farriers, named Shelton and Ketter, were apprehended, and being tried at the next assizes for Surry, the latter was acquitted, but the former was convicted



convicted on the positive oath of the person robbed, and suffered death \*.

The three accomplices being out on the road near Dulwich, met two gentlemen on horseback, one of whom got from them by the goodness of his horse, and the other attempted to do so, but was knocked down and robbed of his watch and money. In the interim the party who had rode off (whose name was Saxby) fastened his horse to a gate, and came back to relieve his friend: but the robbers first knocked him down, and then shot him.

Having stripped him of what money he had, they hastened towards London; but a suspicion arising that Duncalf was concerned in this robbery and murder, he was taken into custody on the following day, and Cooper being taken up on his information, Burrell surrendered, and was admitted an evidence for the crown.

WILLIAM DUNCALF was a native of Ireland, and had received a decent education. He was apprenticed to a miller, who would not keep him on account of his knavish disposition; and being unable to procure employment in Ireland, he came to London, where he officiated as a porter on the quays.

Extravagant in his expences, and abandoned in principle, he commenced smuggler: but being taken into custody by the custom-house officers, he gave information against some other smugglers; by which he procured his discharge, and was made a custom-house officer.

Variety

---

\* It is impossible for prosecutors to be too cautious in their evidence, or juries too careful what they believe. Many lives have been sacrificed to mistaken evidence.

Variety of complaints respecting the neglect of his duty being preferred to the commissioners of the customs, he was dismissed, and once more commenced smuggler. Among his other offences, he alledged a crime against a custom-house officer, who was transported in consequence of Duncalf's being perjured.

We have already recounted many of his notorious crimes, in conjunction with his accomplices above mentioned : but he did not live to suffer the punishment that he merited ; for he had not been long in prison before the flesh rotted from his bones, and he died a dreadful monument of the Divine vengeance, though not before he had acknowledged the number and enormity of his crimes.

COOPER frequently expressed himself in terms of regret, that a villain so abandoned as Burrell should escape the hands of justice. In other respects his behaviour was very resigned, and becoming his unhappy situation. He acknowledged that he had frequently deliberated with Burrell on the intended murder of Duncalf, lest he should become an evidence against them : but he now professed his happiness that this murder had not been added to the black catalogue of his crimes.

When brought to trial he pleaded guilty, and confessed all the circumstances of the murder ; and after sentence was passed against him, appeared to be a sincere penitent for the errors of his past life.

Being visited by a clergyman and his son, who had known him in his better days, he was questioned respecting the robbery of Mrs. Pearson, which he denied ; but he had no sooner done so, than he was seized with the utmost remorse of mind, which the gaoler attributed to the dread of being hung in chains ; and questioning him on this subject,

ject, he said that he was indifferent about the disposal of his body, but wished to communicate something to the clergyman who attended him: and, when he had an opportunity, he confessed that his uneasiness arose from the consciousness of having denied the robbery of Mrs. Pearson, of which he was really guilty.

He was hanged at Kennington-common on the 26th of August 1750, having behaved in the most devout manner at the place of execution.

Few offenders commit such a number of crimes as this man did before they are called to answer for them at the most awful tribunal. From his fate we may learn, that a continuance in villany is so far from affording security, that it effectually leads to ruin.

Habits of vice are not easily shaken off; and those of virtue are equally apt to remain with us. What a lesson does this afford for the practice of early piety, which will essentially influence all our future lives!

Parents should remember, that an education, strictly religious, is the best foundation for their children's future conduct in life.

What blest'd examples do we find

Writ in the word of truth,

Of children that began to mind

Religion in their youth!

On the contrary, how many instances do we meet with, in which the want of a religious education is productive of every vice, and its consequent destruction!



Account of WILLIAM SMITH, who was hanged  
at *Tyburn* for *Forgery*.

**I**RELAND gave birth to this malefactor, whose father was rector of Kilenore, and having given him a tolerable idea of the learned languages at home, sent him to Trinity college, Dublin, to finish his education ; and then placed him with an attorney of eminence. \*

His father dying before the expiration of his clerkship, he abandoned himself so much to his pleasures, that he was induced to commit a forgery on his master ; in consequence of which he received a considerable sum : but being afraid of detection, he resolved to quit his native country.

Hereupon he entered as captain's clerk on board a man of war, and behaved with propriety till about the time that the ship was paid off, when he took to the dangerous practice of forging seamen's tickets : for the captain employing him to make out tickets for the men, he made several of them payable to himself, and disposed of them for above a hundred pounds, and likewise secreted about a hundred pounds more, which were due for wages to the seamen, and stole a sum of money belonging to the surgeon's mate ; with all which he decamped.

Repairing to London he took the name of Dawson, and served some time as clerk to an attorney ; but his employer going into the country, and Smith knowing that he had capital connexions in Ireland, he forged a letter in his name, on a merchant in Dublin, for £.130, and carrying it himself, received the sum demanded, partly in cash, and partly in Bank-notes ; on which he took his  
passage



passage to England, and received the amount of the notes in London.

His appearance in the capital now becoming very dangerous, he strolled about the country till he was almost reduced to poverty, when he again went to Ireland, where he forged an order for the payment of £.174 : 19s. which he received and brought to England, though a King's Bench warrant was issued for his apprehension in Ireland, and he was likewise indicted in that country.

Assuming a false name he secreted himself more than half a year in England, when, being reduced to poverty, he was met by a gentleman who knew him; who remarking on the meanness of his appearance, seemed surprized that, with his abilities, he should be destitute of the conveniences of life.

Smith told a deplorable tale of poverty; said that he was in a bad state of health, and unable to visit his friends in his present situation: on which the gentleman cloathed him decently, gave him money, and recommended him to a physician, whose skill restored him to health in a short time.

Thus reinstated for the present in fortune and constitution, he no longer visited his benefactors, and was soon reduced to his former state of distress.

His friend again meeting him in the usual wretched plight, asked him the occasion of it; on which he said, that, being indebted for lodging, he was obliged to sell his cloaths; and that he did not call to thank the physician, because his appearance was so exceedingly abject.

Hereupon his friend once more supplied him with cloaths; on which he went to see the physician, who desired him to repose himself awhile, and conversed with him in the most sociable way. Smith arising, as if to depart, presented a pistol to

the doctor's face, and threatened his destruction if he did not instantly give him five guinees: but the other, with great indifference, told him that he was an old man, not afraid of death; that he might act as he thought proper; but that if he perpetrated his design, the report of the pistol would be infallibly heard by his servants; and that the consequence would prove fatal to himself.

Having said this, the gentleman refused to deliver the money demanded; on which Smith was so terrified, that he dropped on his knees, wept with apparent concern for his offence, and begged pardon with such appearance of sincerity, that the physician's humanity was excited, and he gave him three guineas, with his best advice for the reformation of his conduct.

Not long after this, Smith casually meeting an acquaintance named Weeks, who stopped at a shop to receive £.45 for a bill of exchange, was paid only £.10 in part, being desired to call for the rest on a future day. Smith having witnessed what passed, forged Mr. Weeks's name to a receipt for the remaining £.35 which he received, and embarked for Holland before the villany was discovered.

The next offence this malefactor committed, or rather intended to commit, afforded the immediate occasion of his being brought to justice. Going to the seat of Sir Edward Walpole, near Windsor, and demanding to see him, he told him he had a bond from Sir Edward to a person named Paterson, who being in distressed circumstances, he (Smith) was commissioned to deliver the bond on a trifling consideration: but Sir Edward, knowing that no such bond subsisted, seized the villain, and committed him to the care of his servants, who conducted

ducted him before a magistrate, by whom he was committed to prison at Reading.

He was examined by different justices of the peace on four successive days : but all that he confessed was, that he was born at Andover. This, however, could not be credited, as the tone of his voice testified that he was a native of Ireland ; on which he was committed to the gaol at Reading, for farther examination.

Smith's transactions having rendered him the subject of public conversation, a suspicion arose that he (though then unknown) was the party who had defrauded Mr. Weeks ; on which notice of the affair was sent to London ; and Mr. Weeks going to Reading, knew him to be the person who had forged the receipt in his name.

Hereupon he was removed to Newgate, and the next session at the Old Bailey was capitally convicted ; and though the jury recommended him to mercy, this could not be obtained, as his character was notorious, and there were five indictments against him.

From the time of his commitment he behaved in the most penitent manner, expressing the utmost compunction for the crimes of which he had been guilty, and preparing for death with every sign of unfeigned repentance ; though for some time he reflected on Sir Edward Walpole, as the author of his destruction, by an interception of the royal mercy : but being assured that Sir Edward had not interposed to injure him, he took the whole blame of his misfortunes on himself.

He was so reduced in circumstances before the day of execution, and so utterly destitute of friends to procure him a decent interment, that he was induced

induced to insert the following advertisement in the news-papers :

“ In vain has mercy been entreated ; the vengeance of heaven has overtaken me ; I bow myself unrepining to the fatal stroke. Thanks to my all-gracious Creator : thanks to my most merciful Saviour : I go to launch into the unfathomable gulph of eternity !

“ Oh ! my poor soul ! How strongly dost thou hope for the completion of eternal felicity ! Almighty Jehovah, I am all resignation to thy blessed will. Immaculate Jesus ! Oh send some ministering angel to conduct me to the bright regions of celestial happiness.

“ As to my corporeal frame, it is unworthy of material notice ; but for the sake of that reputable family from whom I am descended, I cannot refrain from anxiety, when I think how easily this poor body, in my friendless and necessitous condition, may fall into the possession of the surgeons, and perpetuate my disgrace beyond the severity of the law. So great an impoverishment has my long confinement brought upon me, that I have not a shilling left for subsistence, much less for the procuring the decency of an interment.

“ Therefore I do most fervently intreat the generosity of the humane and charitably compassionate, to afford me such a contribution as may be sufficient to protect my dead body from indecency, and to give me the consolation of being assured that my poor ashes shall be decently deposited within the limits of consecrated ground.

“ The deprivation of life is a sufficient punishment for my crimes, even in the rigorous eye of offended justice ; after death has permitted my remains to pass without further ignominy ; then  
why



why should inhumanity lay her butchering hands on an inoffensive carcass? Ah! rather give me the satisfaction of thinking I shall return to my parent, dust, within the confines of a grave.

“ Those who compassionate my deplorable situation, are desired to send their humane contributions to Mrs. Browning’s, next door to the Golden Acorn, in Little Wild-street; and that Heaven may reward their charitable disposition, is the dying prayer of the lost and unhappy

WILLIAM SMITH.”

It would be strange if this address, so calculated to impress the feeling heart, had not produced the intended effect. Mrs. Browning advertised, that the subscriptions of the humane were sufficient to answer the proposed end.

Just before the quitting Newgate, Smith prayed most devoutly; nor at the place of execution was he less fervent in imploring the divine mercy.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 3d of October 1750.

Forgery, in any case, is a crime of great magnitude: but the forgeries of this man were aggravated by being committed to the prejudice of his best benefactors, and that of those who were little able to sustain the loss. His ingratitude was very extraordinary: let us hope that his penitence was equally so; and that the readers of this work may never be tempted to acts of equal ingratitude, or crimes of equal enormity.

It is remarkable of many offenders, that they take more pains to perpetrate their villanies, than they would do to support themselves in the most reputable manner. This is a strong argument, if there were no other, against acts of dishonesty: but there

there is no person who is not devoid of common sense, and who has a proper regard to his happiness temporal and eternal, but will be honest on SUPERIOR MOTIVES.



Account of the remarkable Case of JAMES MAC-LANE, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for a *Robbery* on the *Highway*.

AS the story of this malefactor was as much the subject of public conversation as that of almost any one whose life has paid the penalty to the offended laws, we shall be the more particular in our account of him.

He was descended from a reputable family in the North of Scotland; but his father, after being liberally educated in the university of Glasgow, went to settle at Monaghan in the North of Ireland, as preacher to a congregation of dissenters in that place, where he married and had two sons, the elder of whom was bred to the church, and preached many years to the English congregation at the Hague, and was equally remarkable for his learning and the goodness of his heart. The younger son was the unfortunate subject of this narrative.

The father dying when he was about eighteen, and his effects falling into his hands, the whole produce was wasted in extravagance before he was twenty years of age. In this dilemma he applied for relief to his mother's relations, with a view to fit him out for the naval service; but as they refused to assist him, he entered into the service of a gentleman named Howard, who brought him to London.

It

It was not long after his arrival in the metropolis before he abandoned his service; and going to Ireland, he again solicited the assistance of his mother's relations, who were either unwilling or unable to afford him relief.

Hereupon he abandoned all thoughts of applying to them for support; but this was for some time liberally afforded him by his brother at the Hague, till his expences began to be too considerable for a continued support from that quarter; for his brother's whole income would not have sufficed to maintain him as a gentleman.

Hereupon Maclane found it necessary to procure some employment; and making an interest with a military gentleman who had known his father, he recommended him to a colonel who had a country seat near Cork. This gentleman engaged him as a butler; and he continued a considerable time in his service, till, secreting some effects, he was dismissed with disgrace, and rendered unable to procure another place in that part of the kingdom.

Being reduced to circumstances of distress, he conceived an idea of entering into the Irish brigades in the service of France, and communicated his intention to a gentleman, who advised him to decline all thoughts of such a procedure, as he could have no prospect of rising in his profession, unless he changed his religion; a circumstance that he would not consent to, for he still retained some sense of the pious education he had received.

Notwithstanding the colonel above mentioned had dismissed him his service, yet fearing that his desperate circumstances might induce him to farther acts of dishonesty, he entrusted him with the care of his baggage to London; and Maclane wishing to enter as a private man in lord Albe-

marle's troop of horse-guards, solicited the colonel to advance him the necessary sum to procure his admission.

The colonel seemed willing to favour his scheme; but thinking it dangerous to trust the money in his hands, he committed it to the care of an officer belonging to the troop, which was then in Flanders. Every thing was prepared; and his credentials were ready for his joining the troop, when he suddenly declined all thoughts of entering into the army.

Maclane's ruling passion was dress, as an introduction to the company of women; and having received about fifty pounds from some females of more good-nature than sense, under pretence of fitting himself out for a West-India voyage, he expended the greater part of it in elegant cloaths, and commenced a professed fortune-hunter.

At length he married the daughter of Mr. Macglegno, a horse-dealer, with whom he received five hundred pounds, with which he commenced the business of a grocer, in Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square, and supported his family with some degree of credit till the expiration of three years, when his wife died, bequeathing two infant daughters to the care of her parents, who kindly undertook to provide for them; and both these children were living at the time of the father's ignominious death.

Hitherto Maclane's character among his neighbours was unimpeached; but soon after the death of his wife, he sold his stock in trade and furniture, and assumed the character of a fine gentleman, in the hope of engaging the attention of some lady of fortune, to which he thought himself entitled



titled by the gracefulness of his person, and the elegance of his appearance.

At the end of about six months he had expended all his money, and became greatly dejected in mind, from reflecting on that change of fortune that would probably reduce him to his former state of servitude. While in this state of dejection, an Irish apothecary, named Plunkett, visited him, and enquired into the cause of his despondency. Maclane acknowledged the reduced state of his finances; candidly confessed that he had no money left, nor knew any way of raising a shilling but by the disposal of his wearing apparel: in answer to which Plunkett addressed him as follows.

“ I thought that Maclane had spirit and resolution, with some knowledge of the world. A brave man cannot want: he has a right to live, and not want the conveniencies of life, while the dull, plodding, busy knaves carry cash in their pockets. We must draw upon them to supply our wants: there needs only impudence, and getting the better of a few idle scruples: there is scarce any courage necessary. All whom we have to deal with are mere poltroons.”

These arguments, equally ill-founded and ridiculous, co-operated so forcibly with the poverty of Maclane, that he entered into conversation with Plunkett on the subject of going on the highway; and at length they entered into a solemn agreement to abide by each other in all adventures, and to share the profit of their depredations to the last shilling: nor does it appear that either of them defrauded the other.

Maclane, though he had consented to commit depredations on the public, yet was so impressed by that remorse of conscience which will never

quit a mind not wholly abandoned, even when engaged in unlawful actions ; that in his first, and most subsequent attempts, he discovered evident signs of want of that false bravery which villains would call courage.

The first robbery these men committed in conjunction was on Hounslow-heath, where they stopped a grazier on his return from Smithfield, and took from him about sixty pounds.

This money being soon spent in extravagance, they were induced to take a ride on the St. Albans road, and seeing a stage-coach coming forward, they agreed to ride up on the opposite sides of the carriage. Maclane's fears induced him to hesitate ; and when at length Plunkett ordered the driver to stop, it was with the utmost trepidation that the other demanded the money of the passengers.

On their return to London at night, Plunkett censured him as a coward, and told him that he was unfit for his business. This had such an effect on him, that he soon afterwards went out alone, and unknown to Plunkett ; and having robbed a gentleman of a large sum, he returned and shared it with his companion.

A short time only had elapsed after this expedition, when he stopped and robbed the honourable Horace Walpole, and his pistol accidentally went off during the attack. For some time did he continue this irregular mode of life, during which he paid two guineas a week for his lodgings, and lived in a stile of elegance, which he accounted for by asserting that he had an estate in Ireland which produced seven hundred pounds a year.

During this time his children were in the care of his mother-in-law, whom he seldom visited ; and when he did, would not sit down, nor stay  
long

long enough for her to give him such advice as might have proved useful to him.

On a particular occasion he narrowly escaped the hands of justice, which terrified him so much, that he went to Holland on a visit to his brother, who received him with every mark of fraternal affection, and though unsuspecting of the mode in which he lived, having but too much reason to fear that he was of a dissipated turn of mind, gave him the best advice for the regulation of his future conduct.

Having remained in Holland till he presumed his transactions in this country were in some measure forgotten, he returned to England, renewed his depredations on the public, and lived in a stile of the utmost elegance. He frequented all the public places, was well known at the gaming-houses, and was not unfrequent in his visits to ladies of easy virtue.

The speciousness of his behaviour, the gracefulness of his person, and the elegance of his appearance, combined to make him a welcome visitor even at the houses of women of character; and he had so far ingratiated himself into the affections of a young lady, that her ruin would probably have been the consequence of their connexion, but that a gentleman casually hearing of this affair, and knowing that Maclane's highest character was that of a sharper, he interposed his timely advice, and saved her from destruction.

Hereupon the visits of Maclane were forbidden; a circumstance that chagrined him so much that he sent a challenge to the gentleman, which was treated with that degree of contempt which all challenges ought to be. Our hero, still the more vexed by this circumstance, went to several coffee-houses,



houses, and saying that the gentleman had refused to meet him, abused him in the most opprobrious terms; but those who knew the story said it was no proof of cowardice for a man of honour to refuse to meet a person of abandoned character.

Encouraged by his repeated successes, Maclane was thrown off his guard, his usual caution forsook him, and he became every day more free to commit robbery, and less apprehensive of detection: for he imagined that Plunkett's turning evidence could alone affect him; and he had no doubt of the fidelity of his accomplice.

On the 26th of June, 1750, Plunkett and Maclane riding out together, met the earl of Eglinton in a post-chaise beyond Hounslow, when Maclane advancing to the post-boy, commanded him to stop, but placed himself in a direct line before the driver, lest his lordship should shoot him with a blunderbuss, with which he always travelled; for he was sensible that the peer would not fire so as to endanger the life of the post-boy. In the interim, Plunkett forced a pistol through the glass at the back of the chaise, and threatened instant destruction unless his lordship threw away the blunderbuss.

The danger of his situation rendered compliance necessary, and his lordship was robbed of his money and a furtout coat. After the carriage drove forward, Maclane took up the coat and blunderbuss, both of which were found in his lodgings when he was apprehended: but when he was afterwards tried for the offence which cost him his life, lord Eglinton did not appear against him.

On the day of the robbery abovementioned Maclane and Plunkett stopped the Salisbury stage, and took two portmanteaus, which, with the booty they had already obtained, was conveyed to Maclane's lodgings



JAMES MACLANE—for *Highway-Robbery*. 271

lodgings in Pall-Mall, where the plunder was shared.

Immediate notice of this robbery was given in the news-papers, and the articles stolen were described ; yet Maclane was so much off his guard, that he stripped the lace from a waistcoat, the property of one of the gentlemen who had been robbed, and happened to carry it for sale to the laceman of whom it had been purchased.

He also went to a salesman in Monmouth-street, named Loader, who attended him to his lodgings, but had no sooner seen what cloaths he had to sell, than he knew them to be those which had been advertised ; and pretending that he had not money enough to purchase them, said he would go home for more : instead of which he procured a constable, apprehended Maclane, and took him before a magistrate.

Many persons of rank, of both sexes, attended his examination ; several of whom were so affected with his situation, that they contributed liberally towards his present support. Being committed to the Gatehouse, he requested a second examination before the magistrate, when he confessed all that was alledged against him ; and his confession was taken in writing.

On this he was recommitted to the prison above-mentioned : and during his confinement a gentleman wrote to his brother at the Hague a narrative of his unhappy case, which produced the following letter, which exhibits an equal proof of fraternal affection, and a regard to the laws of equity.

Utrecht,

Utrecht, August the 16, N. S. 1750.

Sir,

**I** RECEIVED your melancholy letter; but the dismal news it contained had reached me before it arrived, as I have been happily absent from the Hague some time.

I never thought that any belonging to me would have loaded me with such heart-breaking affliction, as the infamous crimes of him, whom I will call brother no more, have brought upon me. How often, and how solemnly, have I admonished him of the miserable consequences of an idle life, and, alas! to no purpose! However that be, I have made all the interest possible for his life, filled with shame and confusion, that I have been obliged to make demands so contrary to justice, and hardly knowing with what face to do it, in the character I bear as a minister of truth and righteousness.

It is the interest of some friends I have made here, that can only save his life; they have lost no time in applying, and I hope their endeavours will be successful; but I still hope more, that if Providence should order events, as that he escapes the utmost rigour of the law, and has that life prolonged which he deserves not to enjoy any longer, I hope, or rather wish, that in such a case he may have a proper sense and feeling of his enormous crimes, which lay an ample foundation for drawing out the wretched remainder of his days in sorrow and repentance. With respect to me, it would give me consolation, if I could hope that this would be the issue of his trial; it would comfort me on his account as he is a man, because I will never acknowledge

knowledge him in any nearer relation, and because, except such good offices as former ties and present humanity demands from me in his behalf, I am determined never to have any farther correspondence with him during this mortal life.

I have given orders to look towards his subsistence, and what is necessary for it.

I am obliged to you, Sir, for your attention in communicating to me this dismal news, and shall willingly embrace any opportunity of shewing myself, Sir, your most obedient, &c.

P. S. If you see this my unhappy brother, let him know my compassion for his misery, as well as my indignation against his crimes; and also that I shall omit nothing in my power to have his sufferings mitigated. He has a fear broke my heart, and will make me draw on the rest of my days in sorrow.

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey, Maclane was indicted, and pleaded "Not guilty;" and read a paper that had been drawn up for him, tending to extenuate his crimes: but his confession being produced against him, and much corroborative proof arising, the jury found him guilty without quitting the court. When brought up to receive sentence of death, and asked, as is customary, what he had to say for himself, he made an essay to address the court; but powers failing, he only exclaimed, "My lord, I cannot speak!"

Maclane, having been educated as a Dissenter, was attended, at his own request, by Dr. Allen, a reverend divine of the Presbyterian persuasion. When the doctor first visited him, he found him in a state of dreadful dejection of mind, but by no means an infidel with respect to religious matters.

He confessed that his companions had reprobated the doctrines of Christianity ; but, for his part, he had always believed them, however contrary to them he had acted : and he attributed this faith to the religious education he had received.

He likewise declared that “ neither death, nor  
 “ the violence and infamy, with which in his case  
 “ it would be attended, gave him the least un-  
 “ easiness ; but expressed the most dreadful appre-  
 “ hension of coming into the presence of the Al-  
 “ mighty, whose laws he had only known to violate,  
 “ and the motions of whose spirit he had felt only  
 “ to suppress.”

The reverend divine advised him to rely with confidence on the merits of his Saviour ; but at the same time to consider how different it would be even for himself to ascertain the sincerity of that repentance, which did not appear to subsist till immediate punishment threatened to succeed his guilt, and death stared him in the face.

This argument appeared to be felt in all its force ; but the criminal declared, that “ if the ut-  
 “ most abhorrence of himself, for the enormities  
 “ of his life ; if the deepest sense of his ingratitude  
 “ to God, and the violation of his conscience, which  
 “ always reproached him : if indignation at himself  
 “ for the injuries he had done to society, and the  
 “ distresses he had brought upon his relations,  
 “ were marks of sincere contrition, he hoped that  
 “ he was a real penitent.”

Dr. Allen remarking that the paper he had read at his trial was no proof of his penitence, he said an attorney had advised him to make that defence, and he thought himself justified in such an attempt to preserve his life. The doctor mentioning a report that had prevailed of the living on bad terms  
 with



JAMES MACLANE—for *Highway-Robbery*. 275

with his wife, and hastening her death by his cruel treatment of her; Maclane positively denied that any such circumstances had existed; and the affectionate leave which his wife's mother took of him gave credit to his affirmation.

He confessed that he entertained but small hope of a reprieve; and being told that the number of robberies then lately committed by persons of genteel appearance seemed to preclude any hope, he submitted with great resignation, wished that his fate might afford a warning to the young and thoughtless, and earnestly exclaimed, "Glad should I be, as my life hath been vile, my death might be useful!" He behaved still more composed than before, after the arrival of the warrant for his execution.

Maclane asking the doctor respecting the propriety of his receiving the sacrament with the other prisoners on the morning of execution, no objection was made to it; but the doctor told him he hoped he would not consider it as a charm or passport into eternity, as he feared was but too common with the vulgar.

Some gentlemen having brought a letter from Maclane's brother in Holland, Dr. Allen delivered it to him, in their presence, on the day before his execution. On receipt of it, he appeared wrapt in grief, and exclaimed, "O my dear brother! I have broke his heart!" After hesitating some time, he said, "I have been long acquainted with sorrow, and cutting as this letter will be to my heart, I will read it."—Observing the first words in it to be "Unhappy brother," he cried, "Unhappy indeed!" and then read the letter with as much composure as his conflicting passions would permit.

All parties now joined in devotion, and the strangers wept abundantly on the solemn occasion. In the evening Dr. Allen took a final leave of the convict, who thanked him on his knees for all his goodness, prayed for the blessing of God Almighty on his head, and added, "This is the bitterness of death!"

Having spent the night in devotion, he prepared to meet his fate with decent resignation. On the following day, when he entered the cart, he said, "O my God! I have forsaken thee, but I will trust in thee." When going to the place of execution, it was observed that his behaviour was uncommonly devout; and when he arrived there he was equally warm in his appeal to Heaven for mercy. After the cap was drawn over his eyes, he said, "O God! forgive my enemies, bless my friends, and receive my soul!"

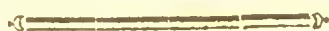
He was executed at Tyburn on the 3d of October, 1750.

After the succinct account we have given of this malefactor, it will be the less necessary to make any copious remarks on his case. The story speaks for itself. An immoderate attachment to what is falsely called pleasure, a turn for gaiety and dissipation, an idle and unwarrantable fondness for the graces of his own person, seem to have laid the foundation of Maclane's ruin.

From his unhappy fate, then, the doctrines of humility, and content with our station, will be better learnt than by a thousand sermons. We see, in his case, most evidently, that the ways of vice lead to destruction; that "Wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."—How eligible is it to chuse the plain path of wisdom!

How

How absurd to deviate into the thorny wilderness of vice!



Account of AMY HUTCHINSON, who was hanged at *Ely*, for *Petit-Treason*.

THE Isle of Ely gave birth to this malefactor, who was the daughter of parents who were rather in low circumstances, yet contrived to keep her at school till she was twelve years of age; rightly judging that a tolerable education is frequently the ground-work of prudent and dutiful behaviour.

At the age of sixteen she was grown a tall fine girl; at which time she was addressed by a young man, whose love she returned with equal affection. Her father being apprised of this connexion, strictly charged his daughter to decline it; but there was no arguing against love; the connexion continued till it became criminal.

The young fellow beginning to grow tired of her, though he had seduced her under promise of marriage, declared his resolution of going to London, but said that he would wed her on his return. Shocked at this apparent infidelity, she determined on revenge; a revenge that proved fatal to herself, and which she had but too easy a method of carrying into execution.

The former lover had no sooner left her than she was addressed by a young man named John Hutchinson; and though he had been always extremely disagreeable to her, she agreed to marry him on the very next day after he had paid her a formal visit.

The

The consequence was, that the marriage took place immediately ; but her admirer happening to return from London, just as the newly-wedded pair were coming out of church, the bride was greatly affected at the recollection of former scenes, and at reflecting on the irrevocable ceremony which had now passed.

She was unable to love the man she had married, and doated to distraction on him she had rejected : and only a few days after her marriage admitted him to his former intimacy with her ; a circumstance that gave full scope to the envious tongues of her neighbours.

Hutchinson becoming jealous of his wife, a quarrel ensued ; in consequence of which he beat her with great severity : but this producing no alteration in her conduct, he had recourse to drinking, with a view to avoid the pain of reflecting on his situation.

In the interim, his wife and the young fellow continued their guilty intercourse uninterrupted ; but considering the life of the husband as a bar to their happiness, it was resolved to remove him by poison ; for which purpose the wife purchased a quantity of arsenick ; and Mr. Hutchinson being afflicted with an ague, and wishing for something warm to drink, the wife put some arsenick in ale, of which he drank very plentifully ; and then she left him, saying she would go and buy something for his dinner.

Meeting her lover, she acquainted him with what had passed ; on which he advised her to buy more poison, fearing the first might not be sufficient to operate ; but its effects were too fatal, for he died about dinner-time on the same day.

Her



Her mother visiting her on the day that the unhappy man died, and being suspicious, from her former conduct, that some indirect methods had been used to destroy him, she said, "I am afraid you have done something to your husband;" to which Mrs. Hutchinson only said, "What makes you think so, mother?"

The deceased was buried on the following Sunday, and the next day the former lover renewed his visits; which occasioning the neighbours to talk very freely of the affair, the young widow was taken into custody the same day, on suspicion of having committed the murder.

The body of the deceased being now taken up, the coroner's Jury was summoned, and the verdict they gave was, "That John Hutchinson had died by poison;" on which the woman was committed to the gaol at Ely.

She had council to plead for her on the trial; but the evidence against her being such as satisfied the jury, she was convicted, and ordered for execution.

After conviction she confessed the justice of those laws by which she had been condemned. She was attended by a clergyman, to whom she acknowledged the magnitude of her crime, and professed the most unfeigned penitence.

She was burnt at Ely, on the 7th of November, 1750, after making a speech, in which she exhorted young people to avoid the danger of making connexions with which their parents were unacquainted.

The case of this unhappy woman will point out to us, in a forcible manner, the villany of those men who seduce women under promise of marriage; since, in almost every instance, ruin is the consequence

quence to the deluded girl ; and the man, if he has any sense of honour left, must be wretched from the reflection of the calamities he has occasioned.

It will likewise teach us the extreme impropriety of marriage from motives of revenge ; and, indeed, of any marriage where hearts are not united. We have few instances of women marrying contrary to their inclinations, in which they are even tolerably happy. Parents, then, should learn to consult the inclinations of their children in the important article of marriage, where it can be done with any tolerable degree of propriety ; and children should consider themselves as bound by every tie of gratitude, to honour those parents who are thus kindly considerate.



Account of JOHN VICARS, who was hanged  
at *Ely*, for *Murder*.

THIS malefactor was the son of a farmer at Doddington in the Isle of Ely, who dying in the infancy of his son, the mother married another husband, who paid no regard to the education of the child.

At the age of fourteen, he was apprenticed to the earl of Leicester's gardener, with whom he served his time, and afterwards lived with him as a journeyman : but soon quitted his station, in consequence of an illicit connexion with the wife of a man who vowed revenge for the insult.

After this he lived near a year with Mr. Bridgman, gardener, at Kensington, and might have continued longer ; but having a propensity to the life  
of

of a sailor, he entered on board the Exeter man of war.

This ship being soon paid off, Vicars associated himself with a gang of Suffex smugglers, in consequence of which he was apprehended by a party of dragoons, committed to the New-gaol, Southwark, and brought to trial; but had the good fortune to be acquitted.

After this he worked as a gardener at Chelsea, with Mr. Millar, the celebrated botanist; and he likewise worked at other places round the country; but his attachment to women was such, that he was compelled to leave his service more than once.

Having served as a gardener to many gentlemen, he went to his native place, and married; but lived unhappily with his wife, whose ill state of health helped to sour her temper, so that frequent quarrels ensued. Having served as a dragoon during part of the rebellion in 1745, he was discharged, and went home; but his wife died within a year after his return.

Remaining a widower about a year, he courted Mary Hainsworth, a woman more distinguished by her beauty than her regard to virtue. A criminal connexion ensued; and after a cohabitation of some weeks, she urged him to marry her, and mentioned her pregnancy as a reason for the celebration of the nuptials.

Vicars hesitating, she declared she would destroy herself, unless he would marry her; on which he quitted her for a few days, to see if she would carry her threats into execution. In the interim she kept company with a coachman; a circumstance that tempted Vicars to think that he should be no longer troubled with her; but the coachman went

to London, after cohabiting with her only a few days.

Immediately on his absence, the connexion between her and Vicars was renewed on their former terms of intimacy, and at length she had art enough to persuade him to marry her.

After marriage they lived tolerably happy for about two months; but at length he sincerely repented of the connexion; and from words they proceeded to blows, the consequence of which was, that the wife went to live with her mother, and refused to return to her husband.

Some days after her absence, Vicars passing by the mother's door, saw his wife, and begged that she would be reconciled to him; but the old woman coming home at that instant, abused him in the most opprobrious terms, beat him violently, and bade her daughter stab him with a knife she then happened to have in her hand.

The mother's horrid command would have been instantly obeyed, but that Vicars fell backwards over the threshold; and the old woman falling on him, he rolled her into the channel; on which the daughter made an effort to stab him; but he effected an immediate escape.

On this the two women swore the peace against him the next day, and procured a warrant for his apprehension: whereupon he went to ask a gentleman's advice, which was, that he should sell his effects, and secrete himself.

He proposed to do as advised on the following day, but was so infatuated, that he called on his wife on his return home; and no sooner did he behold her, than, inflamed with passion, he pulled out a knife, and attempted to cut her throat; but her resistance occasioned his driving it through  
her



her neck, which being done, he ran into the street, desiring the people to take him into custody, or he would put an end to his own life.

His behaviour was so frantic, that the people seemed afraid of him, till he was seized by a man named Boone, who led him to prison; and on the following day he readily confessed the crime of which he had been guilty.

He was indicted at the same assizes with Amy Hutchinson (mentioned in the preceding account), and pleaded guilty; on which, sentence of death was passed on him.

After conviction he behaved in the most devout manner; said that he had been married only ten weeks, but declared that he had no wish to protract his life; for that the temper of his wife was such, that he should have been tempted to have murdered her some other time, if he had not done it when he did.

He was carried to the place of execution with Amy Hutchinson, joined in devotion with her, and exhibited every mark of sincere contrition. At his request the woman was first executed, and when he saw the flames burning around her, he walked to the gallows, assisted in fixing the rope to his neck, and threw himself off the ladder.

He was hanged at Ely on the 7th of November, 1750.

In the cases of the two last-mentioned malefactors, we see that the woman was burnt for the murder of her husband, while the man was hanged for the murder of his wife. Whence, it may be asked, this difference of punishment? but it should be remembered that the laws of this country are founded on the doctrines of religion; and it is a well-known part of the Christian system that

“wives should be obedient to their husbands in all things.”

Hence, then, that severe punishment decreed against women who murder their husbands, which is called petit-treason, and deemed next in degree to high-treason; which is seeking to murder the reigning prince, who, under heaven, is deemed the common parent of the public; and whose preservation is therefore guarded by the strictest laws, as essential to the public welfare.



Account of the singular Case of JOHN CARR,  
who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for *Forgery*.

THIS malefactor was a native of the north of Ireland. His parents were respectable, and his education was genteel. At sixteen years of age he was sent to reside with a kinsman in Dublin. When he grew to years of maturity, his kinsman put him into business as a wine and brandy-merchant, and he seemed to be in the road of success; but this friend dying, he attached himself to bad company, neglected his business, lost his customers, and was soon greatly reduced in his circumstances.

A man of fortune, who was one of his abandoned associates, invited Carr to pass part of the summer at his seat in the country; and setting out together, they stopped at Kilkenny, where some passengers quitted a coach; among whom was a young lady, whose elegant person and appearance impressed Carr with an idea that she was of rank, and inspired him with the first sentiments of love that he ever felt.

Throwing himself from his horse, he handed her into the inn; and a proposal being made that

the company should sup together, it was agreed to on all hands; and while the supper was preparing, Carr applied himself to the coachman, to learn the history of the young lady: but all the information he could obtain was, that he had taken her up at Dublin, and that she was going to the Spa at Mallow.

Carr, being anxious to become better acquainted with the lady, prevailed on the company to repose themselves the next day at Kilkenny, and take a view of the duke of Ormond's seat, and the curiosities of the town. This proposal being acceded to, the evening was spent in the utmost harmony and good humour; and the fair stranger even then conceived an idea of making a conquest of Mr. Carr, from whose appearance she judged that he was a man of distinction.

In the morning she dressed herself to great advantage; not forgetting the ornament of jewels, which she wore in abundance; so that when she entered the room, Carr was astonished at her appearance. She found the influence she had over him, and resolved to afford him an early opportunity of speaking his sentiments; and while the company was walking in the gallery of the duke of Ormond's palace this opportunity offered.

The lady affected displeasure at this explicit declaration; but soon assuming a more affable deportment, she told him that she was an English woman of rank; that his person was not disagreeable to her, and that if he was a man of fortune, and the consent of her relations could be obtained, she should not be averse to listening to his addresses. She further said, that she was going to spend part of the summer at Mallow, where his company would be agreeable; and he followed her to that place,  
contrary

contrary to the advice of his friend, who had formed a very unfavourable opinion of the lady's character.

Here he dissipated so much cash in company with this woman, that he was compelled to borrow of his friend, who remonstrated on the impropriety of the connexion: but Carr still kept her company, and at the end of the season returned with her to Dublin.

Here the lovers agreed to sail for England; and Carr sold some small estates, and borrowing all the money he possibly could, delivered the whole to his mistress.

Preparations were now made for the voyage, and Carr employed himself in procuring a passage to England; but in his absence the lady shipped all the effects on board a vessel bound for Amsterdam; and having dressed herself in man's apparel, she embarked and sailed, leaving Carr to regret his ill-judged credulity.

On his return home, discovering how he had been robbed, he was at first half distracted with his loss; but on cooler reflection, he thought it would be in vain to pursue the thief: on which he sold the few trifles that remained of his property, which producing about a hundred pounds, he came to London, and soon spent the whole in debauchery and extravagance.

Thus reduced, he enlisted as a foot-soldier, and served some years before he was discharged; after which he entered as a marine at Plymouth, whence he came to London, and opened a shop in Hog-lane, St. Giles's. He now married a girl, who he thought had money; but soon discovering her poverty, he abandoned her, and removed to

Short's-



Short's-gardens, where he entered into partnership with a cork-cutter.

Having soon ingratiated himself into the esteem of the customers, he opened shop on his own account, and soon got all the business from his late partner. This, however, proved of no service to him, for, getting into bad company, he frequented the gaming tables, and became the dupe of sharpers.

These villains, determined to possess themselves of all his money, offered to procure him a wife of fortune, though they knew he had a wife living; and actually contrived to introduce him to a young lady of property; and a marriage would probably have taken place, but that one of them, struck with remorse of conscience, developed the affair to her father, and frustrated the whole scheme; and soon afterwards Carr's companions quitted him, having reduced him to the last shilling.

Having been entrusted by a gentleman with a draught on the bank for sixty pounds, he received the money, and spent it all in the lowest scenes of debauchery, and then entered as a marine.

There being something in his deportment superior to the vulgar, he was advanced to the rank of serjeant, in which he behaved so well that his officers treated him with singular regard.

The vessel in which he sailed taking a merchant ship richly laden, and soon afterwards several smaller vessels, the prize-money amounted to a considerable sum; which gave Carr an idea that great advantage might be obtained by privateering. Hereupon he procured a discharge; and entering on board a privateer, was made master at arms.

In a few days the privateer took two French ships, one of which they carried to Bristol, and the other into the harbour of Poole. Having refitted  
their

their ship, they sailed again; and in two days took a French privateer, and gave chase to three others, which they found to be English vessels belonging to Falmouth, which had been made prize of by a French privateer. These they retook, and carried them into Falmouth: in their passage to which place they made prize of a valuable French ship, the amount of which contributed to enrich the crew.

On their next trip they saw a ship in full chase of them; on which they prepared for a vigorous defence, and indeed it was necessary, for the vessels fought above forty minutes yard-arm and yard-arm. Many hands were lost by the French, who at length attempted to sheer off, but were taken, after a chase of some leagues.

The commander of the English privateer being desperately wounded in the engagement, died in a few days; on which Carr courted his widow, and a marriage would have taken place, but that she was seized with a violent fever, which deprived her of life; but not before she had bequeathed him all she was possessed of.

Having disposed of her effects, he repaired to London, where he commenced smuggler: but his ill-gotten effects being seized on by the officers of the revenue, he took to the more dangerous practice of forging seamen's wills, and gained money for some time; but being apprehended, he was brought to trial at the Old-Bailey, convicted, and was sentenced to die.

He was of the Romish persuasion, and behaved with decent resignation to his fate.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 16th of Nov. 1750.

Having had frequent opportunities of remarking on the consequence of the horrid crime of forgery;

gery; we shall in this case advert to the folly of Carr being duped by a notorious strumpet, contrary to the advice of his friend.

There is nothing that young men ought more carefully to avoid than a lasting connexion with women, arising from a casual acquaintance. Thousands have been the instances of ruin occasioned by such connexions.

The growth and fatal effects of an intercourse with a bad woman, is thus finely described by SOLOMON, and will supersede the necessity of our saying any thing farther on this subject.

“ For, at the window of my house, I looked  
“ through my casement, and beheld among the  
“ simple ones; I discerned among the youths a  
“ young man void of understanding, passing through  
“ the street near her corner; and he went the way  
“ to her house, in the twilight, in the black and  
“ dark night; and behold there met him a woman  
“ with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.  
“ (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not  
“ in her house; now she is without, now in the  
“ streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So  
“ she caught him, and kissed him, and with an  
“ impudent face said unto him, I have peace-offer-  
“ ings with me; this day have I payed my vows.  
“ Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently  
“ to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have  
“ decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with  
“ carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have  
“ perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cin-  
“ namon. Come let us take our fill of love until  
“ the morning; let us solace ourselves with love.  
“ With her much fair speech she caused him to  
“ yield; with the flattery of her lips she forced  
“ him. He goeth after her straitway, as an ox to  
VOL. III. No. 28. O o “ the

“ the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the  
 “ stocks ; till a dart strike through his liver : as a  
 “ bird hasteneth to the snare, and knoweth not  
 “ that it is FOR HIS LIFE. Hearken unto me now  
 “ therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words  
 “ of my mouth. Let not thine heart *incline to her*  
 “ *ways ; go not astray in her paths !*”



Account of JOHN EVERETT, who was hanged  
 at Tyburn for *Privately Stealing*.

THIS offender was a native of Hertford ; in which town he served his apprenticeship to a baker. The young men in the neighbourhood declined associating with him, and held him in universal abhorrence, so ungracious were his manners, and so strong was his propensity to wickedness.

Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship, he connected himself with a gang of notorious gamblers, and other dissolute wretches, ; in conjunction with whom he perpetrated a great number of villainies, but for several years escaped the vengeance of the law.

By persuasions and the promise of a sum of money, Everett, and a man named Wright, induced a young woman to exhibit a charge of felony against two innocent men, who were put on their trial, but happily acquitted, as the perjured evidence was not able to authenticate her accusation. In revenge for their failing to supply the girl with the money they had promised, she lodged an information against Everett and Wright, who were in consequence



sequence indicted for subornation of perjury, and sentenced to stand on the pillory at the end of Chancery-lane, where they received very severe treatment from the populace.

Soon after the above punishment had been inflicted, Everett was tried at Hicks's-hall, and sentenced again to stand on the pillory, for having fraudulently obtained a thirty-six-shilling piece. He was afterwards convicted of having circulated counterfeit Portugal coin, and ordered to be imprisoned for two years in Newgate.

Soon after Everett's trial, a company of gentlemen went to Newgate to visit a criminal, and in a short time they discovered that they had been robbed of their handkerchiefs. The circumstance being mentioned to Everett, he pretended to be much surprized, and intimated that there was but little probability of the property being recovered. However, in a little time he produced the handkerchiefs, and received some money from the gentlemen, as a reward for his supposed honesty.

While he remained in Newgate, he picked the pocket of almost every person who came to visit the prisoners: he was continually uttering the most reprobate speeches, and seemed to delight in the practice of every species of wickedness. Upon the expiration of the time he was sentenced to remain in prison, he found sureties for his good behaviour for two years, and was discharged.

Having stopped a young gentleman in Fleet-street, he was asked if a robbery was intended; upon which he knocked the gentleman down, but a large dog belonging to the injured party immediately seized the villain, who with great difficulty disengaged himself just time enough to escape being secured by the watch.

Everett, and a woman of the town, went to a small inn at Hoddesden in Hertfordshire, which was kept by an ancient widow, and being invited into a room behind the bar, after having each drunk a glass of wine, the widow and her female guest went to walk in the garden: in the mean time Everett broke open a bureau, and stole sixty pounds in cash, and several gold rings. They kept the widow in conversation till the time of going to bed, in order to divert her from going to the bureau; and the next morning decamped with their booty.

They took the road to Nottingham, whence they crossed the country to Newmarket, and then returned to London. Everett's numerous villanies had rendered his name so notorious, that he was fearful of being apprehended; and therefore he went under the denomination of George Anderson, and lived in a very private manner till the money he had so wickedly obtained was expended.

He now procured a knife eighteen inches long, and determined to levy contributions on passengers on the highway. In the road between Kentish-town and Hampstead, he attempted to rob a countryman, who being of an intrepid temper, a desperate contest ensued, in which Everett proved the conqueror, and dangerously wounded his antagonist, from whom he, however, obtained but a small booty.

The same evening he stole a quantity of ribbons from a haberdasher's shop, but he was immediately pursued, and soon apprehended and secured in prison.

Everett was brought to trial at the ensuing sessions; and the prosecutor having laid the indictment capitally, he was convicted and sentenced to be hanged.

For some time after conviction he behaved in a decent manner, and appeared to be resigned to the fate that awaited him: but upon learning that the order for his execution was received by the gaoler, he became perfectly outrageous, violently threatening those who were near him, and uttering the most blasphemous expressions. A report being circulated that he meditated a design against the life of the gaoler, his cell was carefully searched, but no suspicious instruments were found.

Whether he really harboured the design of murdering the keeper, is a matter of doubt. He denounced vengeance against the man who gave the information, declaring, with horrid imprecations, that if he could procure a pistol, or any other offensive weapon, he would put him to death. He applied the most opprobrious epithets to the keeper of the prison; and such ungovernable outrage was there in his whole behaviour, and such shocking blasphemy in his expressions, that it was judged necessary to chain him down to the floor.

His behaviour was more decent and composed on the day preceding that of his execution; but he did not appear to be conscious of the enormity of his guilt, or to be earnest in repentance.

He joined in prayer with the ordinary of Newgate at the place of execution, but declined addressing the populace, and a little time before being turned off, said he considered death as too severe a punishment for the crime he had committed.

On the 31st of December, 1750, this offender was executed at Tyburn.

Everett's propensity to wickedness was apparent in his earliest years; and though he found himself universally despised by all who were not abandoned like himself, he neglected to effect a reformation

mation in his manners, whereby he might have removed all prejudices against him, and have become a respectable member of the community. He had lived without regard either to religious or moral obligations : but the utmost distraction of mind was occasioned by the upbraidings of a guilty conscience, and the terrible approach of death. The miserable situation of this man, exhibits a striking proof of the justice with which Shakespeare has put the following lines into the mouth of a man oppressed with guilt :

---

“ Pray I cannot,  
 “ Though inclination be as sharp as ’twill ;  
 “ My stronger guilt defeats my strong intent ;  
 “ And like a man to double business bound,  
 “ I stand in pause where I shall first begin,  
 “ And both neglect.  
 “—O wretched state ! O bosom black as death !  
 “ O limed soul, that struggling to get free,  
 “ Art more engaged !”

---

Account of WILLIAM BAKER, who was executed at *Tyburn* for *Forging an East-India Warrant*.

THE subject of this narrative was born in Cannon-street, where his father kept a baker’s shop, and lived in good reputation. The youth was educated at Merchant Taylor’s school, and at the usual age bound apprentice to a grocer in a considerable way of business ; and he proved so faithful and diligent a servant, that soon after  
 the



the time of his apprenticeship had expired, his master admitted him an equal partner in his trade.

Having carried on the grocery trade for about seven years, he declined that business, and connected himself in partnership with Mr. Carter, a sugar-baker; and by this new undertaking he flattered himself in the expectation of speedily acquiring a fortune.

About the period of his commencing sugar-baker he married one of his cousins, who was the daughter of a clergyman in Northamptonshire; and with her he received a handsome fortune.

For several years he fulfilled all his engagements with the greatest punctuality, and was supposed to be possessed of considerable property.

He attended the sales of the East-India company's goods, and frequently purchased very large quantities of teas, and he had extensive dealings in other articles. He often sustained considerable loss by the sale of his goods; and his circumstances, at length, became so embarrassed, that he was under apprehension that a commission of bankruptcy would issue against him.

He flattered himself, however, that, if he could support his credit for a short time, matters would take a more favourable turn, and his circumstances be retrieved. His anxiety to avoid a bankruptcy, induced Mr. Baker to forge an East-India warrant for goods to the amount of nine hundred and twenty-two pounds. But it must be remarked, that the forgery was not committed with any intention to defraud, but merely to raise a supply for present exigencies.

Mr. Baker passed the counterfeit warrant into the hands of Mr. Holland, who sent it to the India-house, where the forgery was detected, and Baker was in consequence apprehended.

Baker

Baker being put on his trial at the Old-Bailey, several gentlemen of reputation appeared in his behalf, and spoke to his character in the most favourable terms: but both the forgery and the uttering the counterfeit warrant having been proved against him by indisputable testimony, and strongly corroborating circumstances, he of course was condemned to suffer death.

Mr. Baker's behaviour, while under sentence of death, was perfectly consistent with his unfortunate situation. Being conveyed to Tyburn in a mourning coach, he appeared to be in a composed state of mind, and entirely resigned to his fate; and after employing some time in fervent prayer, he suffered the dreadful sentence of the law.

The unfortunate Mr. Baker was executed on the 31st of December, 1750.

When Mr. Baker forged the warrant, he was in expectation of speedy remittances; on the receipt of which his design was unquestionably to take up the counterfeit instrument. Therefore we should compassionate him as an imprudent, rather than condemn him as a wicked man.

The man who strictly adheres to the principles of honesty, may rely, that no change in his circumstances, however unfavourable, can injure his character: convinced of his integrity, his creditors will be satisfied with the residue of his effects, and after the settlement of his affairs, they will readily trade with him on the terms that were usual before he was known to be insolvent.

To be incapable of fulfilling our engagements in trade, we must allow to be a situation exceedingly distressing: but at the same time it should be considered, that infamy is almost the certain consequence of transgressing the law; and that poverty  
may

may be cheered by hope, and consoled by conscious rectitude of intention ; while the horrors of guilt admit of no alleviation, and terminate only with the departing breath.



Account of NORMAN ROSS, who was executed at *Edinburgh*, for the *Murder* of Mrs. HUME.

ROSS was descended from reputable parents at Inverness, in the North of Scotland, who gave him a good education, and intended that he should be brought up in a merchant's counting-house ; but before he had completed his fifteenth year his father and mother died, leaving Norman and several other children wholly unprovided for.

Norman made application for employment to several merchants ; but though he was well qualified for business, his proposals were rejected, because he could not raise the sum usually given upon entering into a merchant's service as an articled clerk.

Thus situated, he engaged himself as a footman to a widow lady of fortune, who, on account of having been acquainted with his parents, behaved to him with singular kindness. The lady had a son, who was then a military officer in Flanders ; and the campaign there being concluded, the young gentleman returned to his native country to visit his mother, and transact some business particularly relating to himself.

Observing Ross to possess many qualifications not usual to persons in his situation, he proposed taking him abroad in the capacity of valet-de-chambre ; and the old lady acquiesced in her son's desire.

Rofs continued in the officer's service for the space of about five years; during which period he behaved with the utmost diligence and fidelity. The regiment being broke on the conclusion of the peace of Aix la Chapelle, the officer set out on the tour of France and Italy, and Rofs returned to Scotland for the benefit of his native air.

Soon after his return to Scotland he recovered his health, and set out in order to pay his respects to his former mistress; but learning that she had been dead about three weeks, he repaired to Edinburgh, where he was hired as a footman by an attorney at law. Having contracted an intimacy with a number of livery servants, he was seduced by their example to the practices of swearing, gaming, drinking, and other vices; and he was dismissed from his service on account of the irregularity of his conduct.

Rofs now became footman to Mrs. Hume, a widow lady of great fortune, and remarkable piety.

In the winter she resided at Edinburgh, and in the summer at a village called Ayton, about four miles from the town of Berwick upon Tweed. About four months after he had been hired by Mrs. Hume, the lady removed to her house at Ayton; and some time after a female servant in the family, with whom he had maintained a criminal intercourse, was brought to bed; and it therefore became necessary for him to supply her with money for the support of herself and the infant.

He continued to provide her with the means of subsistence from the month of April till August, by borrowing money of his fellow-servants, and other persons with whom he was acquainted.

The woman, at length, becoming exceedingly importunate, and his resources being wholly exhausted,



hausted, he was driven nearly to a state of distraction, and in that disposition of mind formed the fatal resolution of robbing his mistress.

Mrs. Hume slept on the first floor, in an apartment behind the dining-room, and being unapprehensive of danger, her bed-chamber door was seldom locked; and with this circumstance Ross was well acquainted, as well as that she usually put the keys of her bureau (and the other places where her valuable effects were deposited) under her pillow.

He determined to carry his execrable design into execution on a Sunday night; and waiting in his bed-room, without undressing himself, till he judged the family to be asleep, he descended, and leaving his shoes in the passage, proceeded to his lady's bed-chamber. Endeavouring to get possession of the keys, the lady was disturbed, and being dreadfully alarmed, called for assistance; but the rest of the family lying at a distant part of the house, her screams were not heard. Ross immediately seized a clasp knife that lay on the table, and cut his mistress's throat in a most dreadful manner. This horrid act was no sooner perpetrated, than, without waiting to put on his shoes, or to secure either money or other effects, he leaped out of the window, and after travelling several miles concealed himself in a field of corn.

In the morning the gardener discovered a livery-hat, which the murderer had dropped in descending from the window; and suspecting that something extraordinary had happened, he alarmed his fellow-servants.

The disturbance in the house brought the two daughters of Mrs. Hume down stairs; but no words can express the consternation and horror of

the young ladies, upon beholding their indulgent parent weltering in her blood, and the fatal instrument of death laying on the floor.

Ross being absent, and his shoes and hat being found, it was concluded that he must have committed the barbarous deed; and the butler therefore mounted a horse, and alarmed the country, lest the murderous villain should escape. The butler was soon joined by great numbers of horsemen, and on the conclusion of the day, when both men and horses were nearly exhausted through excessive fatigue, the murderer was discovered in a field of standing corn. His hands being tied behind him, he was taken to an adjacent public-house, and on the following morning he was conducted before a magistrate of Edinburgh, who committed him to prison.

On the trial of this offender, he had the effrontery to declare that his mistress usually admitted him to her bed, and that it was his constant practice to leave his shoes at the dining-room door. He said, that upon entering the chamber he perceived the lady murdered, and leaped through the window in order to discover who had perpetrated the barbarous deed; adding, that having lost his hat, he did not chuse to return till evening, and therefore concealed himself among the corn. He was severely reprimanded by the court for aggravating his guilt by aspersing the character of a woman of remarkable virtue and piety, whom he had cruelly deprived of life.

The law of Scotland bears an affinity to that of the Romans. It invests the judges with power to punish criminals in such manner as they may deem to be proportioned to their offences. This privilege was exercised in the case of Ross, whose

crime

crime having been attended with many aggravating circumstances, he was sentenced to have his right hand chopped off, then to be hanged till dead, the body to be hung in chains, and the right hand to be affixed at the top of the gibbet with the knife made use of in the commission of the murder.

Upon receiving sentence of death he began seriously to reflect on his miserable situation, and the next day requested the attendance of Mr. James Craig, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, to whom he confessed his guilt; declaring that there was no foundation for his reflections against the chastity of the deceased.

Six weeks elapsed between the time of his trial and that of his execution, during which he was visited once every day by Mr. Craig. He shewed every sign of the most sincere penitence; and refused to accompany two prisoners who broke out of gaol, saying he had no desire to recover his liberty, but on the contrary would cheerfully submit to the utmost severity of punishment, that he might make some atonement for his wickedness.

The day appointed for putting the sentence of the law into force being arrived, Ross walked to the place of execution, holding Mr. Craig by the arm. Having addressed a pathetic speech to the populace, and prayed some time with great fervency of devotion, the rope was put round his neck, and the other end of it being thrown over the gallows, it was taken hold of by four chimney-sweepers \*. The criminal now laid his right hand upon

---

\* The chimney-sweepers of Edinburgh are obliged to assist the executioner whenever they are required.

upon a block, and it was struck off by the executioner at two blows; immediately after which the chimney-sweepers by pulling the rope raised him from the ground; when he felt the rope drawing tight, by a convulsive motion he struck the bloody wrist against his cheek, which gave him an appearance too ghastly to admit of description. The body was put into chains, and hung upon a gibbet, the hand being placed over the head with the knife stuck through it.

This offender was executed at Edinburgh on the 8th of January 1751.

But little is necessary to be said on the case of this man, so obvious are the reflections that will occur to every reader. When he had committed the murder, such was the horror of his mind that he had not power to effect the robbery, which was his original design, or even to go to the door of the outward room for his shoes, though they were essentially necessary to his flight.

To deprive a fellow-creature of existence, in, perhaps, an unprepared hour, is a crime of such magnitude as to be, of all others, the most shocking to humanity, and such as we can scarcely suppose will leave the perpetrator thereof even the most distant hope of divine mercy.



Account of RICHARD BUTLER, who was executed at *Tyburn* for *Forgery*.

**T**HIS malefactor was born at Turlus in the county of Tipperary in the kingdom of Ireland; and his father, who was a reputable farmer, bound



bound him apprentice to a baker in Waterford. He proved so faithful and diligent a servant, that he was held in universal esteem; and, upon the expiration of his apprenticeship, his father gave him a hundred pounds, for the purpose of establishing him in business.

The above sum enabled him to open a shop in Waterford, where he had a favourable prospect of success: but, instead of attending to his business, he frequented horse-races, cock-fightings, and other gaming meetings, and engaged in a variety of expences greatly beyond what his income could afford: the consequence of which was, that in about six months his affairs were in a most embarrassed situation.

Being unable to continue his business, he returned to Turlus, where he formed a great number of infamous stratagems for extorting money from his relations; and they threatened, that unless he quitted that part of the country, they would cause him to be apprehended, and proceed against him with the utmost rigour of the law.

Butler applied to a clergyman at Turlus, representing his case in a plausible manner, and supplicating that he would use his interest with his father to prevail upon him to grant twenty pounds in addition to his former favours. The worthy divine pleaded in behalf of the young man, and with the desired success. Upon delivering the money, the reverend gentleman exhorted him to apply it to a proper use; which he promised to do, adding that he would immediately depart for Cork, and not return to the place of his nativity till, by an unremitting perseverance in a system of integrity, he had made atonement for all the errors of his conduct.

On his arrival at Cork he procured employment as a journeyman; and in that capacity he was so industrious and strictly œconomical, that in a short time he made such addition to his stock that he was able to open a shop on his own account. He was much encouraged, and his circumstances were supposed to be more flourishing than they were in reality.

Coming into possession of a handsome sum of money by marrying the widow of a custom-house officer, who lived in the neighbourhood, Butler took a tavern of considerable business, where his circumstances would have been considerably improved but for his connections with maritime people, to whom he gave unlimited credit, and was under the necessity of taking smuggled goods in payment, or losing his money.

An information being lodged against him for having smuggled goods in his possession, his effects were seized for the use of the crown, and he was under the necessity of quitting Ireland.

Butler and his wife took shipping for Plymouth, and in that town they hired a house, which they lett in lodgings to sea-fairing people. In about three years he was obliged to quit Plymouth, and repaired to the metropolis, in a very distressed condition.

He had not been long in London before the grief consequent on the various scenes of distress she had passed through produced the death of his wife.

Butler being now in very distressed circumstances, he communicated his case to some of his countrymen; and he yielded to their persuasions for acquiring a livelihood by forging seamen's wills.

Butler, Horne, and a woman named Catherine Gannon, went to the navy-office to enquire what wages

wages were due to Thomas Williamson, a foremast man belonging to the *Namure*, and learnt that the sum was about eight and thirty pounds. They then made application to a proctor, the woman producing a forged will, and declaring herself to be the widow of Williamson. They were desired to call the next day, when a probate would be granted.

Butler and his female accomplice attended according to the appointment: but the proctor having, in the mean time, searched the offices, found that the will in question was opposed by four caveats; and having further reason to suspect an intended fraud, he caused them to be apprehended. Being taken before the lord-mayor, Gannon acknowledged that she had received a few shillings from Butler and Horne, who had promised to make the sum up five pounds, on condition of her swearing herself to be the widow of Thomas Williamson. Butler was committed to Newgate; and Gannon and Horne were admitted evidences for the crown.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey Butler was tried, and sentenced to die. While under sentence of death he regularly attended prayers in the chapel, and employed a great part of his time in private devotions, agreeable to the doctrines of the protestant faith. At the place of execution he prayed with great fervency of zeal, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and after addressing the populace, was turned off.

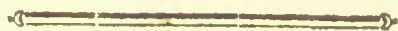
The above malefactor was executed at Tyburn, on the 10th of February, 1751.

There is no species of forgery so liable to detection as that of wills; for before the validity of a will can be established, it must pass through so

many offices, and undergo such strict scrutiny, that a fraud of this nature can but very rarely happen.

Butler had very favourable prospects in the early part of life ; but unhappily he was attached to idleness and dissipation, whence arose his future misfortunes. The case of this man shews the danger that must necessarily attend young tradesmen who engage in expences that the profits of their business cannot afford. Indolence became so habitual to him by indulgence, that after leaving the tavern he could not collect sufficient resolution to apply himself to honest industry for the means of support.

Let it be remembered, that though the law may fail to take effect, there is an internal monitor whose severe upbraidings will not permit an interval of happiness to the man whose heart is contaminated with guilt.



Account of the Life and very extraordinary Transactions of WILLIAM PARSONS, Esq; who was hanged at Tyburn, for returning from *Transportation*.

**T**HE subject of this narrative was the son of sir William Parsons, baronet, of the county of Nottingham. He was born in London, in the year 1717. He was placed under the care of a pious and learned divine at Pepper-Harrow in Surry, where he received the first rudiments of education. In a little more than three years he was removed to Eton college, where it was intended that he should qualify himself for one of the universities.



While he was a scholar at Eton he was detected in stealing a volume of Pope's Homer in the shop of a bookseller named Pote. Being charged with the fact, he confessed that he had stolen many other books at different times. The case being represented to the master, Parsons underwent a very severe discipline.

Though he remained at Eton nine years, his progress in learning was very inconsiderable. The youth was of so unpromising a disposition, that sir William determined to send him to sea, as the most probable means to prevent his destruction, and soon procured him to be appointed midshipman on board a man of war, then lying at Spithead under sailing orders for Jamaica, there to be stationed for three years.

Some accident detaining the ship beyond the time when it was expected she would sail, Parsons applied for leave of absence, and went on shore : but having no intention to return, he immediately directed his course towards a small town about ten miles from Portsmouth, called Bishop's Waltham ; where he soon ingratiated himself into the favour of the principal inhabitants.

His figure being pleasing, and his manner of address easy and polite, he found but little difficulty in recommending himself to the ladies. He became greatly enamoured of a beautiful and accomplished young lady, the daughter of a physician of considerable practice, and prevailed upon her to promise she would yield her hand in marriage. News of the intended marriage coming to the knowledge of Parsons' friends, his uncle hastened to Waltham, to prevent a union which he apprehended would inevitably produce the ruin of the contracting parties.

With much difficulty the uncle prevailed upon Parsons to return to the ship, which in a few days afterwards proceeded on her voyage. The ship had not been long arrived at the place of destination, when Parsons resolved to desert, and return to England; and soon found an opportunity of shipping himself on board the Sheerness man of war, then preparing to sail on her return home.

Immediately upon his arrival in England, he set out for Waltham, in order to visit the object of his desires: but his uncle, being apprized of his motions, repaired to the same place, and represented his character in so unfavourable, but at the same time in so just a manner, as prevented the renewal of his addresses to the physician's daughter.

He went home with his uncle, who observed his conduct with a most scrupulous attention, and confined him as much as possible within doors. This generous relation at length exerted his interest to get the youth appointed midshipman on board his Majesty's ship the Romney, which was ordered on the Newfoundland station.

Upon his return from Newfoundland, Parsons learnt, with infinite mortification, that the dutchess of Northumberland, to whom he was related, had revoked a will made in his favour, and bequeathed to his sister a very considerable legacy which he had expected to enjoy. He was repulsed by his friends and acquaintances, who would not in the least countenance his visits at their houses; and his circumstances now became exceedingly distressed.

Thus situated, he applied to a gentleman named Bailey, with whom he had formerly lived on terms of intimacy; and his humanity induced him to invite Parsons to reside in his house, and to furnish him with the means of supporting the character of  
a gen-

a gentleman. Mr. Bailey also was indefatigable in his endeavours to effect a reconciliation between young Parsons and his father, in which he at length succeeded.

Sir William having prevailed upon his son to go abroad again, and procured him an appointment under the governor of James Fort, on the river Gambia, he embarked on board a vessel in the service of the Royal African company.

Parsons had resided at James Fort about six months, when a disagreement took place between him and governor Aufleur: in consequence of which the former signified a resolution of returning to England. Hereupon the governor informed him that he was commissioned to engage him as an indented servant for five years. Parsons warmly expostulated with the governor, declaring that his behaviour was neither that of a man of probity or a gentleman, and requested permission to return. But so far from complying, the governor issued orders to the centinels to be particularly careful lest he should effect an escape.

Notwithstanding every precaution, Parsons found means to get on board a homeward-bound vessel, and being followed by Mr. Aufleur, he was commanded to return; but cocking a pistol, and presenting it to the governor, he declared he would fire upon any man who should presume to molest him. Hereupon the governor departed; and in a short time the ship sailed for England.

Soon after his arrival in his native country he received an invitation to visit an uncle who lived at Epsom, which he gladly accepted, and experienced a most cordial and friendly reception. He resided with his uncle about three months, and was treated with all imaginable kindness and respect.

At length one of the female servants in the family swore herself to be pregnant by him; which circumstance so incensed the old gentleman, that he dismissed Parsons from his house.

Reduced to the most deplorable state of poverty, he directed his course towards the metropolis; and three halfpence being his whole stock of money, he subsisted four days upon the bread purchased with that small sum, quenching his thirst at the pumps he casually met with in the streets. He lay four nights in a hay-loft in Chancery-lane, belonging to the Master of the Rolls, by permission of the coachman, who pitied his truly deplorable case.

At length he determined to apply for redress to an ancient gentlewoman, with whom he had been acquainted in his more youthful days, when she was in the capacity of companion to the duchess of Northumberland. Weak and emaciated through want of food, his appearance was rendered still more miserable by the uncleanness and disorder of his apparel: and when he appeared before the old lady, she tenderly compassionated his unfortunate situation, and recommended him to a decent family in Cambridge-street, with whom he resided some time in a very comfortable manner, the old gentlewoman defraying the charge of his lodging and board; and a humane gentleman, to whom she had communicated his case, supplying him with money for common expences.

Sir William came to town at the beginning of the winter, and received an unexpected visit from his son, who dropped upon his knees, and supplicated forgiveness with the utmost humility and respect. His mother-in-law was greatly enraged at his appearance, and upbraided her husband with being foolishly indulgent to so graceless a youth,



at the same time declaring, that she would not live in the house where he was permitted to enter.

Sir William asked him what mode of life he meant to adopt; and his answer was, that he was unable to determine, but would chearfully pursue such measures as so indulgent a parent should think proper to recommend. The old gentleman then advised him to enter as a private man in the horse-guards; which he approved of, saying he would immediately offer himself as a volunteer.

Upon mentioning his intention to the adjutant, he was informed that he must pay seventy guineas for his admission into the corps. This news proved exceedingly afflicting, as he had but little hope that his father would advance the necessary sum. Upon returning to his father's lodgings, he learnt that he had set out for the country, and left him a present of only five shillings.

Driven now nearly to a state of distraction, he formed the desperate resolution of putting an end to his life, and repaired to St. James's park, intending to drown himself in Rosamond's pond. While he stood on the brink of the water, waiting for an opportunity of carrying his impious design into effect, it occurred to him, that a letter he had received, mentioning the death of an aunt, and that she had bequeathed a legacy to his brother, might be made use of to his own advantage; and he immediately declined the thoughts of destroying himself.

He produced the letter to several persons, assuring them that the writer had been misinformed respecting the legacy, which in reality was left to himself. Under the pretext of being entitled to the above legacy, he obtained money and effects from different people to a considerable amount; and

and among those who were deceived by the above stratagem, was a taylor in Devereux-court in the Strand, who gave him credit for several genteel suits of cloaths.

The money and other articles thus fraudulently obtained enabled him to engage in scenes of gaiety and dissipation; and he seemed to entertain no idea that his happiness would be of but short duration.

Accidentally meeting the brother of the young lady to whom he had made professions of love at Waltham, he intended to renew his acquaintance with him, and his addresses to his sister: but the young gentleman informed Parsons that his sister died suddenly a short time after his departure from Waltham.

Parsons endeavoured as much as possible to cultivate the friendship of the above young gentleman, and represented his case in so plausible a manner as to obtain money from him at different times to a considerable amount.

Parsons' creditors now became exceedingly importunate; and he thought there was no probability of relieving himself from his difficulties, but by connecting himself in marriage with a woman of fortune.

Being eminently qualified in those accomplishments which are known to have a great influence over the female world, Parsons soon ingratiated himself into the esteem of a young lady possessed of a handsome independency, bequeathed her by her lately deceased father. He informed his creditors, that he had a prospect of an advantageous marriage; and as they were satisfied that the lady had a good fortune, they supplied him with every thing necessary for prosecuting the amour, being persuaded that, if the expected union took place, they

they should have no difficulty in recovering their respective demands.

The marriage was solemnized on the 10th of February 1740, in the 23d year of our hero's age. On occasion of this event, the uncle, who lived at Epsom, visited him in London, and gave him the strongest assurances that he would exert every possible endeavour to promote his interest and happiness, on condition that he would avoid such proceedings as would render him unworthy of friendship and protection. His relations in general were perfectly satisfied with the connexion he had made, and hoped that his irregular and volatile disposition would be corrected by the prudent conduct of his bride, who was justly esteemed a young lady of great sweetness of temper, virtue, and discretion.

A few weeks after his marriage, his uncle interceded in his behalf with the right honourable Arthur Onslow; and through the interest of that gentleman he was appointed an ensign in the thirty-fourth regiment of foot.

He now discharged all his debts, which proved highly satisfactory to all his relations; and this conduct was the means of his obtaining further credit in times of future distress.

He hired a very handsome house in Poland-street, where he resided two years, in which time he had two children, one of whom died very young. From Poland-street he moved to Panton-square, and the utmost harmony subsisted between him and his wife, who were much respected by their relations and acquaintances. But it must be observed, that though his conduct in other respects had been irreproachable from the time of his marriage, he was guilty of unpardonable indiscretion as to the manner of his living; for he kept three saddle-horses,

a chaise and pair, several unnecessary servants, and engaged in many other superfluous expences that his income could not afford.

Unfortunately Parsons became acquainted with an infamous gambler, who seduced him to frequent gaming-houses, and to engage in play. He lost considerable sums, which were shared between the pretended friend of Parsons and his wicked accomplices.

Parsons was now promoted to a lieutenancy in a regiment that was ordered into Flanders, and he was accompanied to that country by the abandoned miscreant, whom he considered as his most valuable friend. The money he lost by gaming, and the extravagant manner in which he lived, in a short time involved him in such difficulties that he was under the necessity of selling his commission, in order to discharge his debts contracted in Flanders. The commission being sold, Parsons and his treacherous companion returned to England.

His arrival was no sooner known, than his creditors were extremely urgent for the immediate discharge of their respective claims; which induced him to take a private lodging in Gough-square, where he passed under the denomination of captain Brown. He pretended to be an unmarried man; and saw his wife only when appointments were made to meet at a public-house. While he lodged in Gough-square, he seduced his landlord's daughter, who became pregnant by him; and her imprudence in yielding to the persuasions of Parsons, proved the means of involving her in extreme distress.

His creditors having discovered the place of his retreat, he deemed it prudent to remove; and at this juncture an opportunity offered by which he hoped to retrieve his fortune; and he therefore embarked



embarked as captain of marines on board the Dursley privateer.

Soon after the arrival of the ship at Deal, Parsons went on shore, provided with pistols, being determined not to submit to an arrest, which he supposed would be attempted. He had no sooner landed on the beach than he was approached by five or six men, one of whom attempted to seize him; but Parsons, stepping aside, discharged one of his pistols, and lodged a ball in the man's thigh. He then said he was well provided with weapons, and would fire upon them if they presumed to give him further molestation. Hereupon the officers retreated; and Parsons returned to the ship, which sailed from Deal the following morning.

They had been in the channel about a week when they made a prize of a French privateer, which they carried into the port of Cork. Parsons being now afflicted with a disorder that prevailed among the French prisoners, was sent on shore for the recovery of his health. During his illness the vessel sailed upon another cruize: and he was no sooner in a condition to permit him to leave his apartment, than he became anxious to partake of the fashionable amusements.

In order to recruit his finances, which were nearly exhausted, he drew bills of exchange on three merchants in London, on which he raised sixty pounds; and before advice could be transmitted to Cork that he had no effects in the hands of the persons on whom he had drawn the bills, he embarked on board a vessel bound for England.

He landed at Plymouth, where he resided some time, under a military character, to support his claim to which he was provided with a counterfeit

commission.. He frequented all places of public resort, and particularly those where gaming was permitted. His money being nearly expended, he obtained a hundred pounds from a merchant of Plymouth, by means of a false draught upon an alderman of London. Some time after the discovery of the fraud, the injured party saw Parsons a transport prisoner on board a ship bound to Virginia, laying in Catwater bay, where he assured him of an entire forgiveness, and made him a present of a guinea.

From Plymouth Parsons repaired to London, and his money being nearly spent, he committed the following fraud in conjunction with a woman of the town: taking his accomplice to a tavern in the Strand (where he was known), he represented her as an heiress, who had consented to a private marriage, and requested the landlord to send immediately for a clergyman. The parson being arrived, and about to begin the ceremony, Parsons pretended to recollect that he had forgot to provide a ring, and ordered the waiter to tell some shop-keeper in the neighbourhood to bring some plain gold rings. Upon this, the clergyman begged to recommend a very worthy man who kept a jeweller's shop in the neighbourhood: and Parsons said it was a matter of indifference with whom he laid out his money; adding that, as he wished to compliment his bride with some small present, the tradesman might also bring some diamond rings.

The rings being brought, and one of each chosen, Parsons produced a counterfeited draught, saying the jeweller might either give him change then, or call for payment after the ceremony; on which the jeweller retired, saying he would attend again in the afternoon. In a little time the woman formed a pretence

a pretence for leaving the room, and upon her not returning soon, our hero affected great impatience, and, without taking his hat, quitted the apartment, saying he would enquire of the people in the house whether his bride was not detained by some accident.

After waiting a considerable time, the clergyman called the landlord; and as neither Parsons nor the woman could be found, it was rightly concluded that their whole intention was to perpetrate a fraud. In the mean time our hero and his accomplice met at an appointed place, and divided their booty.

Soon after the above transaction, Parsons intimated to a military officer that, on account of the many embarrassments he was under, he was determined to join the rebel army, as the only expedient by which he could avoid being lodged in prison. The gentleman represented the danger of engaging in such an adventure, and, lest his distress should precipitate him to any rash proceeding, generously supplied him with forty guineas to answer present exigencies. He soon afterwards borrowed the above gentleman's horse, pretending that he had occasion to go a few miles into the country, on a matter of business: but he immediately rode to Smithfield, where he sold the horse at a very inadequate price.

That he might escape the resentment of the gentleman whom he had treated in so unworthy a manner, he lodged an information against him, as being disaffected to the government: in consequence of which he was deprived of his commission, and suffered an imprisonment of six months. He exhibited informations of a similar nature against two other gentlemen, who had been most liberal bene-

benefactors to him, in revenge for refusing any longer to supply him with the means of indulging his extravagant and profligate disposition.

In the year 1745, he counterfeited a draught upon one of the collectors of the excise, in the name of the duke of Cumberland, for five hundred pounds. He carried the draught to the collector, who paid him fifty pounds in part, being all the cash that remained in his hands.

He went to a taylor, saying he meant to employ him on the recommendation of a gentleman of the army whom he had long supplied with cloaths; adding that a captain's commission was preparing for him at the war-office. The taylor furnished him with several suits of cloaths; but not being paid according to agreement, he entertained some suspicion as to the responsibility of his new customer; and therefore enquired at the war-office respecting captain Brown, and learnt that a commission was making out for a gentleman of that name. Unable to get any part of the money due to him, and determined to be no longer trifled with, he instituted a suit at common law, but was nonsuited, having laid his action in the fictitious name of Brown, and it appearing that Parsons was the defendant's real name.

Parsons sent a porter from the Ram inn in Smithfield, with a counterfeit draught upon sir Joseph Hankey and Co. for five hundred pounds. Parsons followed the man, imagining that if he came out of sir Joseph's house alone, he would have received the money; and that if he was accompanied by any person, it would be a strong proof of the forgery being discovered; and upon observing sir Joseph and the porter get into a hackney coach, he resolved not to return to the inn.

He



He next went to a widow named Bottomley, who lived near St. George's church, and saying he had contracted to supply the regiment to which he belonged with hats, gave her an order to the amount of a hundred and sixty pounds. He had no sooner got possession of the hats, than he sold them to a Jew for one half of the sum he had agreed to pay for them.

Being strongly apprehensive that he could not long avoid being arrested by some of his numerous and highly exasperated creditors, by means of counterfeit letters he procured himself to be taken into custody, as a person disaffected to the king and government; and he was supported, without expence, in the house of one of the king's messengers, for the space of eighteen months.

Being released from the messenger's house, he revolved in his mind a variety of schemes for eluding the importunity of his creditors, and at length determined to embark for Holland. He remained in Holland a few months; and when his money was nearly expended, he returned to England. A few days after his arrival in London, he went to a masquerade, where he engaged in play to the hazard of every shilling he possessed, and was so fortunate as to obtain a sum sufficient for his maintenance for several months.

His circumstances becoming again distressed, he wrote in pressing terms to his brother-in-law, who was an East-India director, intreating that he would procure him a commission in the company's service, either by land or sea. The purport of the answer was, that a gentleman in the Temple was authorised to give the supplicant a guinea, but that it would be fruitless for him to expect further favours.

Having

Having written a counterfeit draught, he went to Ranelagh on a masquerade night, where he passed the draught to a gentleman who had won some small sums of him. The party who received the draught offered it for payment in a day or two afterwards, when it was proved to be a counterfeit: in consequence of which Parsons was apprehended, and committed to Wood-street compter. During his confinement he wrote the following letters:

*To Sir William Parsons.*

Wood-street Compter,

Honoured Sir,

Aug. 17, 1748.

AFTER so profligate and infamous a life as I have led, I hardly dare to put pen to paper to intercede with you for forgiveness; but as by being sincerely penitent of my many enormous crimes, which I am sincerely from the bottom of my heart, I hope to obtain pardon of my heavenly Father, in the world to come; so, by the same repentance, I hope to obtain forgiveness of my terrestrial parent, and my much-injured wife. Certain it is, I am undeserving the minutest charity from any of my relations, and in a more especial manner from you, whom I have so greatly and so often offended. Notwithstanding my past mis-spent life, your goodness is so manifest to me in the letter and support you sent me by Mr. B——, that, during the short time the law allows me in this world (through a long and severe imprisonment) I shall, in the most grateful and humble manner, be truly thankful for your tenderness and compassion towards me.

I am, Sir,

(Though heretofore a profligate)

Now your sincerely penitent,

And unhappy son,

WILLIAM PARSONS.

*To*

To Mrs. Parsons.

Wood-street Compter, Aug. 29, 1748.

HAD I but heretofore been as thoroughly sensible of my profligate and mis-spent life as now, I need not have dated a letter to you from this dismal place. The reflections which I now make on my past crimes make me in a manner distracted; and none disturbs my peace of mind more, than the barbarities and unspeakable injuries you have undeservedly met with from me. I am, believe me, as sincerely penitent for my ill-usage towards you, and for my past enormous crimes, as it is possible for man to be; by which repentance I hope to obtain mercy in the world to come, and forgiveness from you. I was once esteemed by you as a sincerely affectionate husband, and now beg you will look on me, during the short time I have to live, to be, as I subscribe myself,

Your sincerely penitent husband,  
In deep affliction,

WILLIAM PARSONS.

As no prosecutor appeared, Parsons was necessarily acquitted: but a detainer being lodged, charging him with an offence similar to the above, he was removed to Maidstone gaol, in order for trial at the Lent assizes at Rochester.

Mr. Carey, the keeper of the prison, treated Parsons with great humanity, allowing him to board in his family, and indulging him in every privilege that he could grant, without a manifest breach of the duties of his office. But such was the ingratitude of Parsons, that he meditated a plan, which,

had it taken effect, would have utterly ruined the man to whom he was indebted in such great obligations. His intention was, privately to take the keys from Mr. Carey's apartment; and not only to escape himself, but even to give liberty to every prisoner in the gaol; and this scheme he communicated to a man accused of being a smuggler, who reported the matter to Mr. Carey, desiring him to listen at an appointed hour at night, when he would hear a conversation that would prove his intelligence to be authentic. Mr. Carey attended at the appointed time; and being convinced of the ingratitude and perfidy of Parsons, he abridged him of the indulgences he had before enjoyed, and caused him to be closely confined.

Being convicted at the assizes at Rochester, he was sentenced to transportation for seven years. And in the following September he was put on board the *Thames*, captain Dobbins, bound for Maryland, in company with upwards of an hundred and seventy other convicts, fifty of whom died in the voyage. In November, 1749, Parsons was landed at Annapolis in Maryland: and having remained in a state of slavery about seven weeks, a gentleman of considerable property and influence, who was not wholly unacquainted with his family, compassionating his unfortunate situation, obtained his freedom, and received him at his house in a most kind and hospitable manner.

Parsons had not been in the gentleman's family many days before he rode off with a horse, which was lent him by his benefactor, and proceeded towards Virginia; on the borders of which country he stopped a gentleman on horseback, and robbed him of five pistoles, a moidore, and ten dollars.

**A few**



A few days after he stopped a lady and gentleman in a chaise, attended by a negro servant, and robbed them of eleven guineas and some silver: after which he directed his course to Potomack river, where finding a ship nearly ready to sail for England, he embarked, and after a passage of twenty-five days landed at Whitehaven.

He now produced a forged letter, in the name of one of his relations, to a capital merchant of Whitehaven, signifying that he was entitled to the family estate, in consequence of his father's decease, and prevailed upon him to discount a false draught upon a banker in London for seventy-five pounds.

Upon his arrival in the metropolis, he hired a handsome lodging at the West end of the town: but he almost constantly resided in houses of ill-fame, where the money he had so unjustifiably obtained was soon dissipated.

Having hired a horse, he rode to Hounslow-heath, where, between ten and eleven o'clock at night, he stopped a post-chaise, in which were two gentlemen, whom he robbed of five guineas, some silver, and a watch.

A short time afterwards he stopped a gentleman near Turnham-green, about twelve o'clock at night, and robbed him of thirty shillings, and a gold ring. He requested that the ring might be returned, as he valued it, being his wife's wedding-ring. Parsons complied with the gentleman's request, and voluntarily returned the gentleman five shillings, telling him, at the same time, that nothing but the most pressing necessity could have urged him to the robbery: after which the gentleman shook hands with the robber, assuring him that, on account of the civility of his behaviour, he would not appear to

prosecute, if he should hear of his being apprehended.

He attempted to rob a gentleman in a coach and four near Kensington, but hearing some company on the road, he proceeded towards Hounslow; and in his way thither overtook a farmer, and robbed him of between forty and fifty shillings. He then took the road to Colnbrook, and robbed a gentleman's servant of two guineas and a half, and a silver watch. After this he rode to Windsor, and returned to London by a different road.

His next expedition was on the Hounslow road; and at the entrance of the heath he stopped two gentlemen, and robbed them of seven guineas, some silver, and a curiously wrought silver snuff-box.

Returning to his lodgings near Hyde-park-corner one evening, he overtook a footman in Piccadilly, and joining company with him, a familiar conversation took place; in the course of which Parsons learnt that the other was to set out early on the following Sunday with a portmanteau, containing cash and notes to a considerable value, the property of his master, who was then at Windsor.

On the Sunday morning he rode towards Windsor, intending to rob the footman. Soon after he had passed Turnham-green, he overtook two gentlemen, one of whom was Mr. Fuller, who had prosecuted him at Rochester, and who, perfectly recollecting his person, warned him not to approach. However he paid no attention to what Mr. Fuller said, but still continued sometimes behind and sometimes before them, though at a very inconsiderable distance.

Upon coming into the town of Hounslow, the gentlemen alighted, and commanded Parsons to  
surrender,

surrender, adding, that if he did not instantly comply, they would alarm the town. He now dismounted, and earnestly entreated that the gentlemen would permit him to speak to them in private, which they consented to; and the parties being introduced to a room at an inn, Parsons surrendered his pistols, which were loaded and primed, and supplicated for mercy in the most pathetic terms.

In all probability he would have been permitted to escape, had not Mr. Day, landlord of the Rose and Crown at Hounslow, come into the room, and advised that he might be detained, as he conceived him very nearly to answer the description of a highwayman by whom the roads in that part of the country had been long infested. He was secured at the inn till the next day, and then examined by a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate.

The unhappy situation of Parsons gave rise to the letters which follow.

PARSONS, to Mr. Fuller, the Gentleman who apprehended him.

Sir,

A N entire reliance on your goodness and humanity is the only apology I can make for this freedom; upon which presumption I beg leave to address you, and flatter myself, that when the unhappy becomes a suitor for mercy, any solicitation in such extremity will be the readier dispensed with.

I presume there is now no occasion to acquaint you of my melancholy situation, and the unhappy consequences attending it: you are the person who has unluckily involved me in it, and from whom



whom I hope for mercy ; though vain and presumptuous my expectation, something tells me it must come from you, or I am undone. As an alleviation of my crime, I beg leave to give you the most solemn assurance, that when I met you I had no other intention than to sue for your favour ; for I well knew the dreadful consequence of appearing in your sight, and therefore designed to cast myself on your goodness, as on a gentleman who would take no pleasure in the destruction of any unfortunate man. It is now past ; but far be it from me to accuse you of injustice, who have so deservedly brought me to this misery. There is a certain over-ruling Providence that governs all our actions, and the Almighty has been pleased thus to execute his vengeance on an offender ; such am I ; but withal, I hope, a sincere penitent ; —one who now sees the error of his ways, and longs for a continuance of life to reform it ; on other conditions I despise it : but, oh ! when I consider seriously of an hereafter, the prospect amazes—I tremble and despair—I am loth to take leave of this world, till I am better prepared for a happy reception in the next. Surely the Almighty has not withdrawn his grace from me ! if not, may not a bad man become good ? These are my hopes ; that is my firm reliance. Granting this, is it not humanity, nay infinite charity, to preserve a life, sought only for that end ? Certainly it is, and God will reward the meritorious act. Dear Sir, I pray let these reflections have some influence on you ; and for mercy, if you are obliged to prosecute me, intercede for my life to the court, when I am cast. Your extensive interest, character, and power, will have so much weight, that will in the highest degree induce them

to



W. PARSONS, for *Returning from Transportation*. 327

to shew clemency. For an act of that abundant good-nature, words would be but poor to express my joyful thanks; none but a compassionate breast can conceive the sentiments of gratitude, that would spring from a heart so tenderly obliged; and, in the end, such extreme humanity will lead to a virtue, which in this world must be its own reward, while it still acquires new glories to carry to that celestial mansion, where the good and virtuous shall be crowned with eternal splendor by the Redeemer of man, the bright fountain of mercy and compassion. To whom, while he grants me breath, prayers shall be incessantly offered for your preservation and happiness, by,

Sir,

Your afflicted humble Servant,

WILLIAM PARSONS.

The world speaks you humane and charitable; if, therefore, good-nature induces you to shew pity on me, I request you'll please to importune that gentleman, who accompanied you, to secrecy. I am a perfect stranger to him; neither have I committed any base act since my return, to urge him or you to severity; but if 'tis thought my crime is of that deep dye, that nothing less than blood must make atonement, may Heaven have mercy upon me!

*To his Brother and Sister.*

My dear Brother and Sister,

T H A T after what is past I dare address you, nothing but extreme affliction, and entire reliance on your goodness and humanity, compels me to: do not therefore be displeased, that an  
unhappy

unhappy wretch presumes so far on your goodness—but with pity and charity behold me supplicating mercy; and may the Almighty give you such a tenderness and meltingness of heart, that you may be deeply affected with my misery and calamity! That I deserve punishment for my offences to God, I acknowledge. I have often provoked his indignation, and his justice has again overtaken me; a piece of great imprudence occasioned my last misfortune, for instead of being elsewhere, pursuant to my sentence, I was last Sunday unluckily met and apprehended by my former prosecutor (Mr. Fuller) who has made information of my returning from transportation, and thereupon committed me to this melancholy place, from whence I have scarce the least hopes of release, till my life answers for the dreadful consequence. I accuse him not of injustice, who has brought me to this misery; so my bad fortune has ordained. There is a certain over-ruling Providence that governs all our actions, and the Almighty has been pleased thus to execute his vengeance on an offender; such am I, but withal, I hope, a sincere penitent—one who now sees the error of his ways, and longs for a continuance of life to reform it.—For, oh! when I consider seriously of an hereafter, the prospect amazes me—I tremble and despair—I am loth to take leave of this world 'till I am better prepared for a happy reception in the next. Surely the Almighty has not withdrawn his grace from me! If not, may not a bad man become good? These are my hopes; that is my firm reliance. Granting this, is it not humanity, nay, infinite charity, to preserve a life sought only for that end? Certainly it is, and God will reward the meritorious act.

Dear

Dear brother and sister, I pray let these reflections have some influence on you, and for mercy's sake (if not for your own sake, to prevent the shame and disgrace that must inevitably ensue, by my ignominy, on an innocent family) intercede for me, and use your best interest in my favour with Mr. Honeywood, whose deserved character, as well as interest, is established; and the world speaks both he and Mr. Fuller humane and charitable. If you will be so good as to apply to him, it will be the effect of a truly good-natured disposition, and for which you shall for ever have my most unfeigned thanks.—Poor return for an act of such uncommon tenderneſs! But 'tis all I have left to give, or by which I can even hope to repay that, or the many other obligations you have conferred upon me. I believe you expect nothing else, for you delight in acts of such humanity; and though you suffer loss and inconvenience by it, though you sacrifice part of your own ease, forego some inferior satisfaction, and abate something in point of interest and fortune, yet I hope compassion (which I fear I do not merit) will prevail on you to over-rule all these considerations, and prompt you to assist a destitute, unhappy wretch, immersed in the deepest misfortune, and in want of a charitable hand to raise him. I have thoughts on my trial to plead my guilt, and rely on the mercy of the court; then, when I am cast, and my poor life expiring, I shall wait for some merciful heart to sue for pardon; though vain and presumptuous my expectation, something tells me it must be from you, or I am undone.

I can say no more; my heart is full of sorrow and contrition: if it is the Almighty's will that I must die, I patiently submit to my fate, and hope that repentance will in the end work out my salvation,

tion.—May the Almighty shower down blessings on you, and yours ! may you be happy in this world ! and may you enjoy perfect felicity in the next, such as is prepared for the good and merciful ! is the fervent prayer of

The lost, undone,  
Newgate.

WILLIAM PARSONS.

To add to my misfortunes, I am without a penny to support me, and threatened, for the want of what is not in my power to give, to be turned down to the common side of the gaol, among wretches who have no thought of God, or their own salvation. I hope the Almighty will inspire you with sentiments of compassion towards me ; and to that end induce you to remit me somewhat to sustain life under such melancholy and distressed circumstances.

*To a noble Earl.*

My Lord,

CONSCIOUS shame for my past offences, and confusion of thoughts in being thus constrained to trouble your lordship's goodness, and seek your protection, makes my mind a state of anarchy, and that at a juncture when it should be most composed, serene, and tranquil.

There is something, my lord, uncommonly shocking in the ignominy of my approaching fate ; and the apprehension of being exposed a common spectacle of reproach and infamy, to an illiterate, senseless mob, intimidates me beyond expression, and divests my soul of every animating faculty.

In the very bloom of life, and the vigour of health and strength ; when my blood flows high in youth,



youth, and my nerves are yet unstrung, to be hurried from earth into an unfathomable eternity, is dreadful ! is tremendous ! The reflection of my condescending to the commission of such enormous crimes, and flying in the face of equity, justice, moral honesty, and moral conscience, dyes my cheeks with crimson stains, and swells my breast with sighs. But, my lord, perfection is quite inconsistent with our nature ; and as a repentant offender is sure to find mercy at the throne of grace, may we not hope for it from our Creator's vicergerent ? Contrition and repentance are the only means left me of expiating my guilt ; and if the most unfeigned sorrow for my past crimes is any atonement, I may then hope for pity and pardon.

To a noble mind, my lord, nothing is so satisfactory, so gratefully pleasing, as frequent opportunities of doing good, even though the unworthy objects of their favour are barren in return. And it is under sanction of these flatulent hopes, that I (who have unhappily forfeited all claim to merit) now presume to address your lordship, and, prostrate on my knees, supplicate your generous interposition in favour of a wretched victim to offended justice, that you will endeavour to deprecate the wrath of offended Majesty, by shielding me from impending fate.

An insupportable concussion of grief, shame and sorrow, almost buries my soul in a supine apathy, and drives me to melancholy ; for where can I fly for succour, or assistance ? Where, but to your lordship's humanity, and illimitable compassion ? Forgive me, then, my lord, this presumption ; and though my faults are atrocious, let christianity excite your pity, and shelter me from death, from shame, from everlasting infamy !

My afflictions, my lord, and the consideration of my hastening doom, create inexpressive grief, which choaks up expression, and will scarce permit me to write; yet on my knees I once more crave your bounteous protection to save a life, whose every hour (should he be so happy as to be spared) shall be spent in endeavouring to deserve such mercy, in unfeigned prayers for my generous preserver, and ardent desires of evincing how strictly grateful I shall always strive to approve myself,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most devoted,

Most obedient, tho' most unhappy,

Newgate, Jan. 11,

Humble servant,

1750-1.

WILLIAM PARSONS.

*From Sir William Parsons to a Friend.*

Oct. the 10th, 1750.

Dear Brewerton,

FROM the letter I received from my son, I was in hopes that he would have at last made a good use of that little time which I have been so successful as to obtain for him, in order that he might be the better prepared for the other world, before he leaves this; but, instead of that, I have the unhappiness to hear, that he makes a very bad use of the short season that is most kindly allotted him for that purpose; and seems to look upon this short respite as an earnest of a reprieve, which I assure you gives me more concern than even the thoughts of that shameful death he must certainly suffer when the King returns. For the utmost favour I have been able to obtain of my friends  
from

from the regency is really no more than this, that so long as they continue regents, they will defer recalling him to his former sentence, but as soon as the King returns, that must be; and then 'tis their firm opinion that there will be no possibility of obtaining any farther favour, and that it will be to no manner of purpose to ask it. I therefore most earnestly desire, that you will endeavour all you possibly can to convince him of this truth; for my peace of mind, and perhaps too his eternal salvation, depends on it. He must die soon after the King's return, so I hope none of his friends will be so foolishly compassionate, as to give him at this time any relief from the severities of a dungeon, which are wisely designed as a means to make such as are in his circumstances seriously reflect on their past conduct, and of that most terrible sentence which in the other world will be passed upon such as neglect to make a good use of that opportunity which is in mercy allotted them for their repentance in this. If you can get any truly pious clergyman, that does not commonly attend the gaols, that will have so much compassion for this poor soul, as to endeavour to bring him to a true sense of his past offences, I shall most thankfully acknowledge the favour to him, after my son is no more. As for my forgiveness, if it will give him any satisfaction, you may assure him of it, and also of my hearty prayers for his repentance. I am so full with grief, I can say no more, but that

I am,

Dear Brewerton,

Most sincerely yours,

W. PARSONS.

*Parsons to his Father, after reading the preceding.*

London, Oct. 23, 1750.

Honoured Sir,

YOURS of the 10th current to Mr. Brewerton has reached me, the contents of which I have duly noted, and beg your acceptance of my sincere thanks for your kind forgiveness, which, in my present situation, affords me real satisfaction. However flagrant have been my follies, yet 'tis more than cruel for any malevolent person to endeavour, by base aspersions, and scandalous misrepresentations, to alienate your affection for an unhappy son, who, in his present penurious circumstances, rather needs an increase of parental love; and I could wish, Sir, that you would rather banish credulity, than cherish that vulture, which will ever prey upon your peace.

There are some people of such a baneful, malignant disposition, as to be always uneasy, unless they are sowing the seeds of sedition, and raising feuds and animosities: these Egyptian plagues are the worst of evils, and I should be extremely sorry to find, that you would sooner credit the licentious tongue of calumny, than the assertions of one in my calamitous condition. Here misery reigns in all its dreadful splendor, and nothing is to be seen but a most hideous night-piece. The athletic is hurried into the tomb in the prime of his age; and justice, offended justice, with a stern severity, demands the victim; yet how gloomy is the prospect, how dismal the scene which displays this evil, followed by a more tremendous group, care, pain, malady, hunger, nakedness, and cold! Consider,  
Sir,



Sir, this shocking, yet too similar portrait; and let nature (kind mother) plead in behalf of an offending son! With conscious shame I own my follies: but can nothing atone for them but life? are my faults inexpiable? and have the cruel sisters decreed to cut my thread? must I be cropt, like a just opening flower, ere I have tasted the sun's enlivening heat? can nothing mitigate my offence? and is my fate irreversibile?

I would, Sir, that you should maintain those favourable sentiments of me, you say my last influenced you to cherish; I hope the ligatures of nature are not entirely broke, and that you will condescend to alleviate in some measure the pungent miseries I now endure. If you call the humanity of any friend, who relieves my distress by trivial succour, a foolish compassion, I am very sorry; and though the severities of a dungeon may be designed (wisely) to awaken criminals to a due sense of their offences, and the thoughts of future existence; yet, if people should begin to divest themselves of humanity, and the common ties essential to the well-ordering of the world, and the harmony of mankind, such scenes of distress would rather damp the spirits, and plunge us in despair, or else be motives to atheism, and even prevail on men to believe no superintendent and all-sufficient power to preside over the affairs of the world; and consequently to think of a state of annihilation. From these considerations, I hope it will evidently appear, that my thoughts are not so volatile and unsteady, as some would endeavour to make you believe: nor should we always judge of men or things by outward appearances; we should maturely weigh and consider the undue media through which men's actions may appear to us, and suspend our decision

sion 'till we have made a more strict and accurate search into them, nor peremptorily determine, till we have examined into the secret springs and motives of their proceedings.

However readily we may allow that most men are in masquerade, and veil their deeds, however black they are, under the specious cloak of friendship; yet no one is more difficult to unravel than the schemes of a seasoned villain, couched beneath the disguise of unbiassed amity; but could we, as Horace says,

“ Detrahère et pellem, nitidus quâ quisque per ora  
“ Cederet;”—

how hideous would he appear to an honest mind! and how despicable must that man be, whose being or support is founded on the ruin of others, nay, perhaps, his inviolable friends!

That any of my acquaintance have buoyed me up with imaginary hopes of a reprieve, is false and groundless, since I am sensible they cannot answer for the King's determination; yet am sorry to find by your letter that I must inevitably die. 'Tis a tremendous expression, more when aggravated by such shocking appendages as seem to await my doom; yet “ who shall circumscribe the theatre, upon which an omnipotent goodness may “ think proper to display itself? who shall presume “ to set bounds to infinite power, actuated by infinite benevolence!” May not I then dare to hope, without being criminal, and yet endeavour to fit myself for a fatal exit? You urge me, Sir, with some reluctance to argue on a theme not altogether the most agreeable in nature; yet hope my wretched circumstances will at least influence you to send me some relief in my extreme distress, assuring you  
I have

I have scarce a sufficiency to support life; and indeed my present condition makes it an irksome load.

The ties of blood, I hope, will prove a sufficient apology for this request, and excite your compassion and assistance, assuring you my present exigencies make it almost misery to be born: enable me then by kind succour to drag out this *lædium vitæ* in a manner less burthenfome than it now is, and by a generous paternal address, shelter me from the inclemencies of cold, and the terrible attacks of hunger; and as you have vouchsafed me pardon, stretch out the hand of humanity to ease my sorrows. I would proceed, but grief prevents my labouring thoughts, and choaks expression; yet permit me to assure you I remain,

Honoured Sir,  
Your most affectionate,  
Dutiful and contrite Son,  
WILLIAM PARSONS.

*Sir William Parsons to his Son.*

I HAVE used my utmost endeavours with a noble duke, who is greatly my friend, in order to save your life; but as I find that is impossible, I think it my duty (however distracting it is for me to write on this subject) to let you know it immediately, that you may not deceive yourself with the hopes of life, but instantly endeavour to make the best use of the short time which is allotted you in this world, in order to prepare for that which is eternal. I need not write my name, for you know the hand

Of your even yet affectionate.

Jan. the 23d.

VOL. III. No. 29.

U u

*Answer.*

*Answer.*

Honoured Sir,

YOURS of the 23d current reached me yesterday, the contents of which I have very seriously considered; and though nameless, yet the characters are too well known to be ignorant from what kind hand it came. Believe me, Sir, unfeignedly thankful for your humane endeavours to save my life, which is still a greater and more unmerited mark of your paternal regard; but, as I really do not flatter myself with hopes of its prolongation, endeavour all I am able to fit myself (I hope) for an awful, yet happy eternity.

“ Qui pœnitet peccasse, pœnâ est innocens.

He who sins and repents, is free from punishment, is a maxim which has long been cherished, and in such case I may dare to hope, that, through the mediatorial sacrifice of a blessed redeemer, I shall meet forgiveness at the throne of mercy. He assures us, that a willing mind is always accepted; and as I am persuaded I must appear at the judgment-seat of Christ, so through expiatory contrition I hope to receive ample pardon; for “ who  
 “ shall presume to set bounds to infinite power,  
 “ actuated by infinite benevolence? who shall circumscribe the theatre upon which an omnipotent  
 “ goodness may think proper to display itself?  
 “ 'Tis impossible that finite minds can comprehend the power of infinity; how then can omnipotence come within the scope of their jurisdiction?”

I am thoroughly convinced of my errors, and heartily sorry for my past misconduct; however, my present sufferings are sufficient punishment, I  
 hope,



hope, to expugn my guilt. If, as I am willing to think, your wonted affection still continues, I dare believe in my situation you would not willingly enhance my afflictions by any aggravating circumstance, or retrospect upon my disobedience.

My mind, I confess, is much more tranquil since your kind pardon and reconciliation than before; and though I am indeed no ways anxious after life, for the bare sake of living, yet it would have been greatly satisfactory to have been furnished with opportunities of making you amends for the uneasiness and concern I have given you, by an utter detestation and abhorrence of past follies, and a strict adherence to duty, sobriety, and virtue.

I am too conscious that I fall a just victim to the offended laws of my country, and the abused clemency of a merciful prince; and as I die in christian charity with all men, so I hope the major part of mankind will be humane enough to bury my faults, and not by unjust and ungenerous reproaches stain with infamy an unhappy family, and particularly a guiltless son.

As, by your kind condescension in honouring me with a letter, I have reason to believe that the ties of nature are not quite dissolved, so I hope you will not refuse my last request of an interview before I die, that on my knees I may receive the pardon and benediction of an offended, injured parent, and that my soul may take its flight on wings of joy to realms of bliss and permanent felicity.

This, Sir, is the earnest petition of one who, though unhappy, begs to be deemed,

Honoured Sir,

Your most dutiful

And affectionate Son,

WILLIAM PARSONS.

U u 2

Parsons

*Parsons to his Wife.*

Dear Madam,

I HAVE, with the utmost concern, received a letter without a name, intimating, that nothing is wanting towards a reconciliation, but a recantation of past aspersions, and contrition for former faults. I confess myself guilty of the allegations laid to my charge; but if an unfeigned and sincere sorrow can make any atonement, believe I feel it in the strictest degree. Pardon is what I earnestly and ardently request: refuse me not; nor yet this fervent prayer, that before my fatal day of dissolution you will vouchsafe me the happiness of a reconcilment, and to share with an unhappy man the most holy and blessed sacrament, with an interview with my dear injured, unfortunate son.

This, I hope, you will not deny, as it is the petition of him who, though wretched, and on the verge of life, begs to be accounted,

Dear Madam,

Your most affectionate Husband,

WILLIAM PARSONS

*A second Letter to his Wife.*

Dear Madam,

“When souls that should agree to will the same,  
To have one common object for their wishes,  
Look different ways, regardless of each other,  
—What a train of wretchedness ensues!”

I have

I have too fatally experienced, and every succeeding day is an aggravation of my misery. That I have injured you in the nicest point I allow, with conscious shame, and sincere sorrow; but as my present circumstances are too dismal to admit of any exaggerating scenes, and as I stand hovering on the verge of life, ready to launch into an unknown world, from whose bourne no traveller has ever returned; so I cannot think but your soul is too noble, at such a crisis, to upbraid me for my past offences, or chide me for my breach of sacred duty.

Consider, madam, my present situation, and as your heart is woman, subject to the tender passions, and in whose breast is strongly sown the seeds of virtue, so (meretricious as I am) I cannot think but that love which gave you to my arms will re-assume its empire in your breast, and deem me at least worthy your compassion. If, like some rude spoiler, I reaped your blooming charms, yet thoughtless flung those charms away, unmindful of their worth; I rather merit pity than contempt for this my weakness. And though I own I have too justly incurred your resentment, yet my heart-piercing miseries, and agonizing sorrows, might claim some share of forgiveness, had I no other title; and though I did not rightly esteem the value of that title, yet the tie is too sacred ever to be dissolved, and my image (I hope) too strongly impressed on your mind to be erased.

When the sun of my life is in its zenith, and I should be expected to shine in meridian lustre, behold me, like a fair opening flower, blasted by a southern wind. See me, in a shattered bark, ready to launch in a tempestuous sea; no chart to guide, no compass to steer my course by, but left to the rough waves and howling winds,  
till

till that I sink beneath the dreadful storm. How shocking is the prospect! and what a dismal night-piece is here!

This anticipation of my miseries is still enhanced by the cruel racking thoughts of never seeing you, nor my dear injured son; yet, perhaps, we may meet again, in realms of never-ending bliss, no more to part. But shall we never meet here, and must I be denied in death the pleasure of an interview, the sweets of pardon from an injured wife, to cheer my fainting soul? Time seems to tread with hasty strides and new-fledged wings, and hurry me to my approaching fate. O fatal doom! To be the scorn of earth, is surely insupportable. I, who (had reason ruled, and justice borne the sway) might have been the comfort of my friends, the joy of all, am now struck from the race of men, as one who never had being. Tormenting pain! How my soul shudders at the gloomy prospect!

Thought drives on thought, and my mind is like a confused chaos; for, in my present condition, every reflection adds to my sorrow, and I can scarce compose my mind to contemplation. But oh! that dread hereafter, that awful eternity, chills my blood, and fills my bosom with ten thousand fears.

Believe me, madam, language is too faint to describe the horrors of my situation, or the calamities I endure, since the softest scene is here sufficient to melt the most obdurate heart, where misery reigns in all her dread array! Allow me then, before I die, to beg to see you, that, though unworthy of your love, I may meet your pardon and pity; and, if it is possible, meet my summons with an untroubled mind.

Accept my hearty prayers for the preservation and happiness of you and my dear child, on whose  
head



head I hope reproaches for my faults will never fall;  
and since I cannot express my real pain, allow me  
to conclude in the same terms I began my letter:

I have wrong'd thee much, and Heav'n has well  
aveng'd it;

I have not, since we parted, been at peace,  
Nor known one joy sincere; our broken friendship  
Pursued me to the last retreat of love;  
Stood glaring like a ghost, and made me cold with  
horror.

Misfortunes on misfortunes press upon me;  
Swell o'er my head like waves, and dash me down.  
Sorrow, remorse, and shame, have torn my soul;  
They hang like winter on my youthful hopes,  
And blast the spring and promise of my year.

I am, with unfeigned esteem and love,

Dear Madam,

Your most affectionate

And unhappy Husband,

WILLIAM PARSONS.

*From Mrs. Parsons to her Husband.*

Mr. Parsons,

IF my advice may yet have any effect on you  
for your own good, I would not have you send my  
petition to the King. I shall, by to-morrow's post,  
write to your father, to desire him to come up di-  
rectly, which I don't doubt but on my request he  
will, and then we shall prefer a proper one; and  
what can be done for you will be with the hopes  
that, if we should succeed, your future life will  
atone for the past. If any thing should happen to  
prevent

prevent his coming, I shall have a letter on Monday next, when you may depend upon hearing from me again, or on Tuesday without fail. I think you know me too well, to doubt of my truth, or think I have any design to deceive you ; but as all endeavours may prove fruitless, I desire you will seriously think of dying ; for remember, the same preparation that makes you fit to die, makes you fit to live ; but I am sorry to tell you, your first letter is a great deal too romantic, for one in your circumstances. Mrs. Jenkins told me, you did not know what particulars to answer to my note : I am sure your own conscience might inform you ; however, I shall say no more, but conjure you to repent seriously of all your crimes, and don't deceive yourself by a false repentance, for though all means are tried, no one knows what the event may be ; but, live or die, this you ought not to omit, which that you may not do is the sincere wish of

Monday morning.

M. T. P.

*Parsons in reply.*

Dear Madam,

YOURS of Monday I duly received, and am gratefully obliged to you for your kind intimations and advice ; the which I shall strenuously endeavour to observe. I hope my father will not refuse my request of an interview before death ; nor you neither, since that will greatly add to my tranquillity. When I reflect on past instances, and the real injuries I have done you, I cannot think there was any thing romantic in my first letter ; but even admitting there was, the suggestion which must arise from the consideration of writing to a person,

person, to whom (unjustly) I had long been estranged; and the thoughts which you may naturally imagine arose therefrom, might, in some measure, flutter my spirits, and occasion an incongruity; but romance none, since I only wrote the language of my heart.

Let my fate be as it may, 'tis my business now to prepare for futurity, which I assure you I do with all the ardor I am capable; and I hope your humanity will supersede justice, and that you will forgive all past injuries, and by a kind condolence alleviate the pangs which result now from the miserable situation of,

Dear Madam,

Your most affectionate,

Though unhappy Husband,

WILLIAM PARSONS.

*Another Letter to his Wife.*

Dear Madam,

ALTHOUGH I can claim no title to demand such a favour further than the ties of nature and the laws of God, yet I would fain flatter myself bare humanity, did nothing else excite, will influence you to accede thereto; and, as I am sensible your influence with my father is great, beg your intercession with him to use his arduous endeavours to save my life.

In my present situation I can but promise and assert, performances being beyond my reach; but am fully persuaded, that my future conduct and behaviour will be regulated in such a manner, as to afford not only you, but also all my friends and acquaintance, the utmost satisfaction; and am convinced every generous breast that shall contribute

to such blessing, as that of protracting my days, will be greatly pleased in being accessary to so happy an issue, and saving a life that may be serviceable to the community.

Pardon, madam, this *ipse dixit* discourse, nor think me vain, since what I write are the true sentiments of my mind, and such as (shall it please God to spare me) I shall always strictly adhere to, and strenuously endeavour to convince you how unfeignedly I am,

Dear Madam,  
Your most affectionate Husband,  
WILLIAM PARSONS.

*Mrs. Parsons to her Husband, the Sunday preceding his Execution.*

Mr. Parsons,

Sunday noon.

ACCORDING to my promise, I sent yours inclosed to your father, and wrote to him in the manner I sent you word; but have never had an answer, which I can attribute to nothing but the letter's miscarrying, for I am sure he has a sincere concern and affection for you. I have done every thing in my power for you, but to no purpose. My aunt this day delivered a petition to the King, in your father's name and mine; what effect it may have, is very uncertain: she met with impertinent usage from the fellow and old woman, who would not have had her gone; they had the insolence to say I desired your death; had that been the case, I need not have given myself and others any trouble in this affair; as to them, I despise them, and can't think at this time you would be so base as to be concerned with them, or encourage their insolence.

Should



W. PARSONS, for *Returning from Transportation*. 347

Should this succeed, I hope your future life will make amends for so much mercy; but, as it is so uncertain, beg you will make a proper use of the few moments you have to live. As to your request of seeing me, it could not be, for I could not bear the shock of seeing you in such circumstances. I freely forgive you all injuries whatever; and hope God will pardon all crimes, support you in your last moments, and receive you to his mercy, which is the sincere prayer and hope of her who was always

Your faithful and affectionate Wife.

P. S. My grandmother and aunt pray for you: I can say no more.

*From a Friend, delivered a few hours before Parsons was taken from Newgate to the place of execution.*

11th Feb. at 4 in the morning.

Dear Mr. Parsons,

THE abrupt manner in which you were hurried from me last night, (even after a permission had been granted to spend half an hour with you) prevented my proceeding in what I had begun seriously to tell you.

“ That you made me shudder—(and may you  
“ shudder as you reflect on it!) when you appealed  
“ to the ordinary, then present, that you were  
“ now easy, as you had been permitted to take a  
“ final leave of the object of your affections, which  
“ you added he knew agitated your mind so much  
“ at chapel (though you knew not why) that you  
“ could not contain yourself: the agitations of your  
“ countenance, which I perceived in you at chapel,

“ I flattered myself, proceeded from a mind truly  
 “ convinced of sin, and sincerely sorrowing for the  
 “ same: but oh! Sir, when in the evening I re-  
 “ turned and found you parlying with the Dalilah  
 “ of your heart, from whom you were in a few  
 “ hours to be separated, by the execution of a just  
 “ sentence, and who, added to the corruption of  
 “ your own mind and morals, was doubtless one  
 “ of the many causes that brought you into this  
 “ earthly condemnation—and must shock every seri-  
 “ ous mind, after the repeated moving exhortations  
 “ which the pious Mr. Gibbons had charitably given  
 “ you (and which many of the poor souls now to  
 “ suffer with you had not the comfort of) and after  
 “ the seeming resolutions which you had made of  
 “ plucking out a right eye, and cutting off a right  
 “ arm, that you might enter maimed, &c. into life  
 “ eternal, rather than having two eyes and two arms  
 “ go down into Hell.—But oh! Sir, how is it that  
 “ you will treat thus with your Maker?—What!  
 “ hug and caress your sins to the very last moment  
 “ almost that the law permits you life; and still  
 “ boast of ease and serenity of mind, and expecta-  
 “ tions of salvation through the merits of Christ,  
 “ whom you are now willing, you say, to receive  
 “ into your heart—now that the law tears every idol  
 “ from you: But oh! Sir, God is not mocked—  
 “ he is a God of justice, as well as tender mercy;  
 “ —may you tremble at the thought, and may  
 “ the thought so cause you to be wounded, as to  
 “ melt you into tears of sorrow and deep contri-  
 “ tion.—Oh! cry bitterly unto him, whose mercy  
 “ and forbearance you have so long provoked; for  
 “ that sorrow of heart, which he has promised, do  
 “ not despise—on these few moments depend eter-  
 “ nity.—oh! that now in this late hour you might  
 “ seek

“ seek his face, before whose awful presence you  
 “ must soon appear!—oh ! that you had read and  
 “ laid to heart the account given of Mr. MacLaine,  
 “ whose case ought to have affected you, and copied  
 “ his dying example—oh ! that you may weep and  
 “ lament, having much to be forgiven.—The God  
 “ of Jacob I know to be more compassionate and  
 “ merciful than Jacob was, who refused to bless his  
 “ son Esau, (after that he had despised the blessing)  
 “ though he sought it with tears.—But do you  
 “ wrestle with him for the blessing of pardon and  
 “ forgiveness—and may he have mercy on your  
 “ poor soul, for Jesus Christ’s sake ! Amen and  
 “ Amen.—Time fails me to add more.”

While Parsons remained in Newgate, his behaviour was such that it could not be determined whether he entertained a proper idea of his dreadful situation. There is indeed but too much reason to fear that the hopes of a reprieve (in which he deceived himself even to the last moments of his life) induced him to neglect the necessary preparation for eternity.

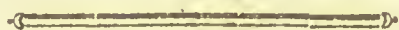
His taking leave of his wife afforded a scene extremely affecting: he recommended to her parental protection his only child, and regretted that his misconduct had put it in the power of a censorious world to reflect upon both the mother and son. At the place of execution he joined in the devotional exercises with a fervency of zeal that proved him to be convinced of the necessity of obtaining the pardon of his Creator.

William Parsons, Esq; was executed at Tyburn on the 11th of February, 1751.

When we consider the numerous violations of the law committed by the above offender, it must appear astonishing that he so long escaped being made  
 an

an object of condign punishment; and more especially when it is recollected that, notwithstanding the momentary danger of being apprehended, he frequented all places of public resort. He must have been continually in a state of most terrible anxiety; for he could scarcely imagine it possible to escape condemnation after being taken into custody; since, had he not been convicted on the indictment for returning from transportation, other charges would have been exhibited against him, and supported by evidence that could not fail to affect his life.

It is strange that Parsons, who had every means of happiness in his own power, should pursue such iniquitous practices as he could not but be sensible must inevitably lead to disgrace, misery, and death. Hence may our readers learn, that too much attention cannot be employed to suppress early inclinations to vice, which, by indulgence, will grow into habits scarcely to admit of removal.



Account of the Transactions of THOMAS QUIN, JOSEPH DOWDELL, and THO. TALBOT, who were hanged for committing a *Street-Robbery*.

QUIN was a native of Dublin, the son of honest, but poor parents; and his father dying while he was a child, his uncle put him to school, and afterwards placed him apprentice to a buckle maker, with whom he served three years faithfully; but his friends supplying him with cloaths too genteel for his rank in life, he began to associate with gay company, and was guilty of many irregularities.

These



These thoughtless youths were frequently concerned in riots, and Quin was considered as the head of the party. In one of these nocturnal insurrections Quin murdered a man, whose friends, watching him to his master's house, desired that he might be delivered up to justice; but some of the journeymen rallying forth with offensive weapons, drove off the people: but a warrant being issued for apprehending the murderer, his master advised him to depart for England.

A subscription for his use being raised by his friends, he came to London, having recommendations \* to some gentlemen of that city: but of these he made no use; for frequenting the purloins of St. Giles's, he spent his money among the lowest of his countrymen, and then entered on board a man of war.

After a service of six months, he quitted the ship at Leghorn, and sailed in another vessel to Jamaica, where he received his wages, which he soon spent. He now agreed to work his passage to England, and the ship arriving in the port of London, he took lodgings in St. Giles's, and soon afterwards became acquainted with Dowdell and Talbot, of whom we are now to give an account.

DOWDELL was the son of a bookbinder in Dublin, who being in low circumstances, was unable to educate his children as he could have wished. The subject of this narrative, who was remarkable for the badness of his disposition, was apprenticed to a breeches-maker, but grew tired of his place before he had served two years.

---

\* It seems strange that a youth charged with murder should thus peaceably depart his native country; and still more so, that he should get good recommendations in England: but such is the historical account of this fact.

Dowdell being ordered by his master to take proper care of a quantity of green leather, particularly to defend it from the snow; instead thereof he heaped such quantities of snow and ice on it, that it was greatly reduced in value. This circumstance so exasperated his master, that he was glad to get rid of him by delivering up his indentures.

Thus at large, and the father ill able to support him, he was recommended to the service of a gentleman in the country, with whom he might have lived happily: but he behaved badly in his place, and, running away to Dublin, commenced pick-pocket.

After some practice in this way, he became connected with a gang of house-breakers, in company with whom he committed several depredations in Dublin. Having broke open a gentleman's house, he was opposed by the servants, and effected his escape only by the use he made of a hanger; soon after which he was taken by the watchmen, and being carried before a magistrate, he was committed to prison the next morning. His person was advertised, and he was brought to trial; but none of the servants being able to swear to him, he was acquitted for want of evidence.

He now renewed his dangerous practices, and committed a variety of robberies. The following is one of the most singular of his exploits. Going to the house of a farmer near Dublin, he pretended to be a citizen who wanted a lodging for the benefit of his health, and he would pay a liberal price.

The unsuspecting farmer put his lodger into the best chamber, and supplied his table in the most ample manner. After a residence of ten days, he asked the farmer's company to the town of Finglass, where he wanted to purchase some necessaries.

The

The farmer attending him, Dowdell purchased some articles at different shops, till, seeing a quantity of gold in a till, he formed a resolution of appropriating it to his own use.

Having returned home with the farmer, Dowdell pretended to recollect that he had omitted to purchase some medicines which he must take that night, and which had principally occasioned his going to Finglafs. Hereupon the farmer ordered a horse to be saddled; and Dowdell set forwards, on a promise to return before night.

On his arrival at Finglafs he put up his horse, and stealing unperceived into the shop above mentioned, he stole the till with the money; and immediately set out for Dublin.

In the interim the farmer, missing his lodger, went to Finglafs, and not finding him there, proceeded to Dublin, where he chanced to put up his horse at the same inn where Dowdell had taken up his quarters. In a short time he saw our adventurer with some dealers, to whom he would have sold the horse; on which the farmer procured a constable, seized the offender, and lodged him in prison.

For this presumed robbery (a real one, doubtless, in the intention) he was brought to trial: but it appearing that the farmer had entrusted him with the horse, he could be convicted of nothing more than a fraud, for which he received sentence of transportation.

The vessel in which he sailed being overtaken by a storm, was dashed on the rocks of Cumberland, and many lives were lost; but several, among whom was Dowdell, swam on shore, and went to Whitehaven, where the inhabitants contributed liberally to their relief.

Dowdell, travelling to Liverpool, entered on board a privateer, which soon took several prizes, which were intended to have been carried to Ireland; but distress of weather driving them southward, they made to the port of Lisbon, where the prizes were sold, and Dowdell received sixty pounds to his share, which he soon squandered in the most thoughtless extravagance.

Being reduced to poverty, he committed a robbery on a Portuguese gentleman; for which he was apprehended, but afterwards released on the intercession of the gentlemen of the English factory; on which he sailed in a man of war to England, and landed at Portsmouth, from whence he came to London.

He had not been long in the metropolis before he associated with a gang of pick-pockets and street-robbers (among whom was one Carter), whose practice it was to commit depredations at the doors of the theatres. Dowdell had not long entered into this association, before he and Carter went under the piazzas in Covent-Garden, where the latter demanded a gentleman's money, while Dowdell watched at a little distance, to give notice in case of a surprize. While Carter was examining the gentleman's pockets, he drew his sword, and killed the robber on the spot; and a mob gathering at the instant, it was with great difficulty that Dowdell effected his escape.

He now went to the lodgings of a woman of ill fame, who having been heretofore kept by a man of rank, he had given her a gold watch and some trifling jewels, which Dowdell advised her to pawn, to raise him ready money.

The girl hesitating to comply, he beat her in a most violent manner; on which she swore the  
peace



peace against him; whereupon he was lodged in Newgate; but discharged at the next sessions, no prosecution being commenced against him.

He was no sooner at large than he made a connexion with a woman of the town, whom an officer had taken to Gibraltar, and during her residence with him she had saved a hundred moidores. Dowdell having possessed himself of this sum, soon spent it extravagantly, and then prevailed on her to pawn her cloaths for his support.

TALBOT was the son of poor parents who lived in Wapping; and having received a common education, he engaged himself as the driver of a post-chaise, in the service of a stable-keeper in Piccadilly. While he was driving two gentlemen on the Bath road, a highwayman stopped the carriage, and robbed them of their watches and money.

This circumstance gave Talbot an idea of acquiring money by illicit means: wherefore, on his return to London, he made himself acquainted with some highwaymen, assuring them that he was properly qualified to give them the intelligence necessary for the successful management of their business.

His proposal met with a ready acceptance; and a company having soon afterwards hired a coach and six of his master to go to Bath, Talbot gave one of the highwaymen notice of the affair; and it was resolved that the robbery should be committed on Hounslow-heath.

The highwayman meeting the carriage on the appointed spot, robbed the parties of all they had; so that they were obliged to return to London for money before they could pursue their journey. Talbot's share of this ill-gotten booty amounted to fifty pounds, which gave him such spirits that

he resolved to pursue the same iniquitous mode of living.

In consequence of this resolution, Talbot informed the highwayman of some company going to Bath, and he attempted to rob them; but a gentleman in the carriage shot him dead on the spot.

Mortified at this accident which had befallen his friend, Talbot no sooner arrived in London than he determined to resign his employment, and commence robber on his own account; but previous to engaging in this business, he spent his ready money in the worst company.

After several attempts to commit robberies, and having narrowly escaped the hands of justice, he grew sick of his employment, and requested his former master to take him into his service. This he declined; but, in pity to his distress, recommended him to a nobleman, in whose family he was engaged\*.

Talbot had been but a short time in his new place, before he robbed the house of several articles of value, which he sold to the Jews, to supply the extravagance of one of the maid-servants, with whom he had an amour.

This theft was not discovered at the time; but Talbot was soon discharged from his place, in consequence of the badness of his temper, which rendered him insupportable to his fellow-servants.

On his dismissal he spent his ready money with the most abandoned company, and then commenc-

\* It will be proper to remark on this ill-judged tenderness, by which a man is induced to recommend a servant to another, whom he will not employ himself. What is this but being an accessory to any future robbery the party recommended may commit?

ing house-breaker, committed a variety of depredations in the neighbourhood of London: for one of which he was apprehended, and brought to trial at the Old Bailey, but acquitted for want of evidence.

On the very evening he was acquitted he stopped a carriage in Drury-lane, and robbed a gentleman of his money, which he soon spent among the most dissolute of both sexes; and within a week afterwards he broke into a house in Westminster, where he obtained plate and cash to a large amount, but was not apprehended for this offence.

In a few days he was taken into custody for picking a gentleman's pocket, brought to trial at the Old Bailey, sentenced to be transported for seven years, shipped to America, and sold to slavery.

He had not been long in this situation, when he embarked, at Boston in New England, on board a privateer: but when at sea, he entered into a conspiracy with some of the sailors, to murder the officers, and seize the vessel: but the confederacy being discovered in time, a severe punishment was inflicted on Talbot and the other villains.

Talbot, quitting the privateer, sailed to England in a man of war, and engaging with some street-robbers in London, was apprehended, convicted, and sentenced to die: but he found interest to obtain a pardon on condition of transportation.

However, he had not been long abroad before he returned, in company with an abandoned woman, who had been transported at the same time; and this woman introduced him to the acquaintance of Quin and Dowdell, in company with whom he committed a considerable number of robberies.

These accomplices robbed six coaches one evening, and obtained considerable plunder; but this  
being

being soon spent in extravagance, they at length embarked in a robbery which cost them their lives.

Having made a connexion with one Cullen, they all joined in a street-robbery, and stopping a coach near Long Acre, robbed a gentleman of his watch and money.

Some people being informed of the affair, immediately pursued them; and Cullen, being taken into custody, was admitted an evidence against his accomplices, who were apprehended on the following day.

Being brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, they received sentence of death; but, after conviction, seemed as little sensible of the enormity of their crimes, as almost any offenders whose cases we have had occasion to record.

Dowdell and Quin were Roman Catholics; and Talbot refusing to join in devotion with the ordinary of Newgate at the place of execution, we can say nothing of the disposition of mind in which they left this world.

These malefactors suffered at Tyburn on the 17th of June, 1751.

So many cases have occurred in this work similar to those before us, that a particular remark on their case will be the less necessary; but the obvious and general remark will be always the same. Nothing can lead to happiness but the pursuit of virtue; nothing totally divest us of it, but an attachment to vice.





---

Account of the singular Case of WILLIAM CHANDLER, who was convicted of *Perjury*.

**T**HIS malefactor (and his crime was enormous) was born near Devizes in Wiltshire, where his father possessed an estate of two hundred pounds a year.

Young Chandler, having received a liberal education, was articled to the clerk of the Goldsmiths company; but not agreeing with his master, he went to live with an attorney in Clement's inn, with whom he compleated his clerkship; but in the interim was married to a servant-girl in the family; but the marriage was kept a secret.

Soon after the expiration of his clerkship, he told his father he had a prospect of marrying to great advantage; and about the same time represented to his master, that he had paid a visit to his uncle, a man of fortune in Suffolk, who had presented him with bank notes to a considerable amount: and he produced some notes, to give an air of truth to his story.

Hereupon the father put into his possession an estate worth about four hundred pounds. And as he represented to his master that he was worth five hundred in ready money, the master was prevailed on to lend him five hundred pounds (on security of his estate) which he said he proposed to advance with some other money to Mrs. Strait of Salisbury, on an estate at Endford, which had been previously mortgaged to a gentleman named Poor, who wished to re-possess himself of the money he had lent.

Thus prepared, he went to Mrs. Strait, on the 17th of March, 1748, and promised to meet her  
at

at Endford on the 25th, to advance her the requisite sum.

Having taken every previous step for the accomplishment of his plan, and being in possession of about nine hundred pounds, he left London on the 24th of the month, and stopped at an inn at Hare-hatch, a few miles to the eastward of Reading.

His own account of the matter was, that being stopped soon afterwards by three bargemen, they robbed him of all his property, bound him, and threw him into a pit, having first threatened his destruction if he made any opposition. He said that he continued in this condition three hours; but, notwithstanding his bondage, he got a considerable way up a hill, where he met with a shepherd named Avery, who cut the cords with which he was tied. After obtaining his liberty, Chandler enquired of the shepherd for the constable of the hundred; and being conducted to him, he described the persons who he said had robbed him, and gave notice, in the legal forms, that he should sue the county to indemnify him for his loss.

He described the supposed robbers with so much exactness, that a person present recollected to have seen three such people; and the mayor of Reading, who was accidentally on the road, had a similar recollection of the bargemen, whom he met near Maidenhead thicket\*.

Chandler now went to the inn at Hare-hatch, where he told a similar tale; and having reposed

\* These circumstances prove the villany of Chandler, who must have seen three such men, and seems to have wanted to fix the supposed guilt on them, which, but for his detection, might have ended in a triple murder.

himself for that night, returned to London on the following day; and told his late master (whose name was Hill) what he pretended had happened. Mr. Hill gave him the numbers of some bank notes which he had advanced, and begged he would go to the Bank and stop payment: instead of which he went to Cannon-street, and changed one of the notes, to pay for a silver tankard which he purchased.

This being done, he returned to Mr. Hill, and told him that no business was transacted at the Bank on that day; but said he had left his numbers of the notes with one of the clerks; but the fact was that he had given in a false list.

His next step was to advertise his supposed loss in the daily papers, offering a reward of fifty pounds for the restoration of the whole, or a proportional one for any part of it. After this he inserted a full account of the presumed robbery in the London Gazette, with a description of the robbers: but he did not mention the note he had paid away when he bought the tankard.

Mr. Hill attended him to a magistrate on the 12th of May, when he gave in the necessary information on oath, omitting only the numbers of the notes said to be lost.

Preparations were now made for the trial, which came on at Abingdon, before a special jury, on the 18th of July, and after a hearing of twelve hours, the jury retired for four more, and then gave a verdict in favour of the prosecutor: but the judge desiring them to leave part of this verdict to the decision of the court of Common Pleas, their opinion was not given on it till the following winter.

Guilt is ever suspicious. Chandler, fearing that a presumption of his fraudulent practices would arise, told his master that he was going to live some time with an uncle in Suffolk; instead of which he went to an inn at Colchester, which was kept by his brother: but being necessitated to correspond with his master, he wrote to him to direct to the Crown at Audley, near Colchester.

The term advancing, the master wrote repeatedly to him, urging him to come to London; but he evaded doing so, with such frivolous excuses, that a suspicion even then arose that his conduct in the prosecution could not be justified.

In the interval twelve of the bank notes which Chandler had sworn he was robbed of were brought to the Bank for payment; but this being refused, and enquiry made, it appeared that a Jew, named Barnard Solomons, had bought them at Amsterdam, of a person who called himself John Smith; and that Barnard had sent them to London, to his agent, Nathan Solomons.

Farther enquiry made it evident that the supposed John Smith had quitted Holland, after a residence of only a few days, and then embarked in the packet with a Dutch merchant, named Casson. This gentleman being found, gave a description of the presumed Smith; which so exactly corresponded with the person of Chandler, that little doubt remained of the identity of the offender; on which his master re-urged him to come to London, and confront Mr. Casson; but he steadily persisted in declining to make his appearance.

In the interim, the point of law was solemnly argued before the judges of the Common Pleas; when their determination was to the following effect: "that as Chandler had not inserted the  
" numbers



“ numbers of his notes in the Gazette, nor sworn  
 “ to them when he made oath before the justice,  
 “ the verdict must be set aside, and the plaintiff  
 “ nonsuited, without the advantage of a new  
 “ trial.”

About this time the false list of the numbers which he had given in at the Bank happening to be found, the public opinion began to be very unfavourable to him; and those who had hitherto considered him as innocent, began to look on him in a light totally opposite.

It was now thought adviseable to take Chandler into custody; for which purpose three gentlemen went to the Crown at Audley, near Colchester, and enquired for a place called Eaton; where he was said to have lived. They were directed to two places named Eaton; but, after a tedious journey without finding him, they went to the inn kept by his brother at Colchester, where Chandler happened to be at the time, but concealed himself in the house during a night which they remained there.

This search after him alarmed him so much, that he quitted Colchester, and went to Coventry, where he took an inn: but being fearful of an arrest from Mr. Winter, a gentleman who had lent him a sum of money, he sent a draught in Winter's favour, for £. 150, on Mr. Quantlett, a linen-draper.

The letter containing this draught being put into the post-office at Northampton, proved the means of discovering his residence at Coventry; in consequence of which he was taken into custody, and lodged in prison.

In the year 1750, he was removed by a writ of Habeas Corpus from Coventry to Abingdon; and

every preparation was made for his trial; but he traversed the indictment, and thereby put it off for that year.

At the next assizes he was tried, convicted, and received sentence to be transported for seven years, after being set in the pillory on the day succeeding the conviction.

On the following morning, however, the sheriff waited on the judge, to acquaint him that if the offender should be impilloried, it would be impossible to protect him from the vengeance of the enraged populace; and therefore requested a mitigation of his sentence.

In consequence of this reasonable request, that part of the sentence respecting his being put in the pillory was dispensed with; and the offender was transported, in consequence of judgment passed on the 16th of July, 1751.

The offence of this malefactor was of so atrocious a nature, a guilt of so deep a dye, that there is scarce a possibility of finding terms in which to express our abhorrence of it. He pretended a robbery which was never committed: he described three persons who he declared were guilty of the fact; and it appeared that three such persons as he had described were seen on the road. His primary intention seems to have been to rob the county; but in the event it might have proved that the lives of three men might have been sacrificed: for it cannot be supposed that, if these men had been apprehended and indicted, such a villain as Chandler would have hesitated to swear that those were the parties who robbed him.

Providence, however, decreed otherwise. A variety of circumstances led to the detection of the villany, and the offender was punished in the way  
pre-

prescribed by the laws, though in no degree adequate to the enormity of his offence.

Those who are better bred than the vulgar, and trust to the superiority of their faculties to procure money in a dishonourable manner, should learn from this story, that there is no security in vice, and that schemes the most deeply laid, and most artfully contrived, may be as liable to detection as those of apparent simplicity. In a word, there is no road to happiness out of the line of virtue: nor can those promise themselves peace of mind, who despise the obligations of religion.



A particular Account of the uncommon Case of THOMAS COLLEY, who was hanged for *Murder*.

AS it is probable that the crime for which this man was executed was such as never will be repeated in this country, we shall be the more particular in our account of it; hoping this narrative will remain as a record to posterity, what fatal consequences may result from unreasonable prejudices and idle superstition.

On the 18th of April, 1751, a man named Nichols went to William Dell, the cryer of Hemel-Hempstead in Hertfordshire, and delivered to him a piece of paper, with four-pence, to cry the words which were written on the paper, a copy of which is as follows:

“ This is to give notice, that, on Monday next,  
“ a man and a woman are to be publicly ducked at  
“ Tring, in this county, for their wicked crimes.”

This

This notice was given at Winslow and Leighton-Buzzard, as well as at Hemel-Hempstead, on the respective market-days, and was heard by Mr. Barton, overseer of the parish of Tring, who being informed that the persons intended to be ducked were John Osborne, and Ruth his wife, and having no doubt of the good character of both the parties, he sent them to the workhouse, as a protection from the rage of the mob.

On the day appointed for the practice of the infernal ceremony, an immense number of people, supposed to be not fewer than five thousand, assembled near the workhouse at Tring, vowing revenge against Osborne and his wife, as a wizard and witch, and demanding that they should be delivered up to their fury: they likewise pulled down a wall belonging to the workhouse, and broke the windows and their frames.

On the preceding evening the master of the workhouse, suspecting some violence from what he had heard of the disposition of the people, sent Osborne and his wife to the vestry-room belonging to the church, as a place the most likely to secure them from insult.

The mob would not give credit to the master of the workhouse that the parties were removed, but rushing into the house, searched it through, examining the closets, boxes, trunks, and even the salt-box, in search of them. There being a hole in the ceiling which appeared to have been left by the plaisterers, Colley, who was one of the most active of the gang, cried out, "Let us search the ceiling." This being done by Charles Young, with as little success as before, they swore they would pull down the house, and set fire to the whole town of Tring, except Osborne and his wife were produced.







*The ducking of John Osborn & his Wife on a charge of Witchcraft*

The master of the workhouse, apprehensive that they would carry their threats into execution, informed them where the poor people were concealed; on which the whole mob, with Colley at their head, went to the church, and brought them off in triumph.

This being done, the mob conducted them to a pond called Marlston-Mere, where the man and woman were separately tied up in a cloth: then a rope was bound round the body of the woman, under her arm-pits, and two men dragged her into the pond, and through it several times; Colley going into the pond, and, with a stick, turning her from side to side.

Having ducked her repeatedly in this manner, they placed her by the side of the pond, and dragged the old man in, and ducked him: then he was put by, and the woman ducked again as before, Colley making the same use of his stick. With this cruelty the husband was treated twice over, and the wife three times; during the last of which the cloth in which she was wrapped came off, and she appeared quite naked.

Not satisfied with this barbarity, Colley pushed his stick against her breast. The poor woman attempted to lay hold of it; but her strength being now exhausted, she expired on the spot. Then Colley went round the pond, collecting money of the populace for the sport he had shewn them, in ducking the old witch, as he called her.

The mob now departed to their several habitations; and the body being taken out of the pond, was examined by Mr. Foster, a surgeon; and the coroner's inquest being summoned on the occasion, Mr. Foster deposed, that "on examining the body  
" of the deceased, he found no wound, either in-  
"ternal .

“ ternal or external, except a little place that had  
 “ the skin off, on one of her breasts; and it was  
 “ his opinion that she was suffocated with water  
 “ and mud.”

Hereupon Colley was taken into custody, and when his trial came on, Mr. Foster deposed to the same effect as above-mentioned; and there being a variety of other strong proof of the prisoner's guilt, he was convicted, and received sentence of death: previous to which, however, he made the following defence: “ I happened to be so unfortunate as to  
 “ be at Marlston-green, among other people, out  
 “ of curiosity to see what the mob would do with  
 “ John Osborne, and his wife; where, seeing that  
 “ they used them very barbarously, I went into the  
 “ pond as a friend, to save her if I could; for I  
 “ knew both very well, and never had any occa-  
 “ sion to fall out with them, but bore them good-  
 “ will. As for the money I collected by the pond-  
 “ side, it was for the great pains I had taken in the  
 “ pond to save both the man and the woman.” This defence was artful enough; but as he brought no witnesses to support any part of it, the jury paid no regard to it.

After conviction this man seemed to behold his guilt in its true light of enormity. He became, as far as could be judged, sincerely penitent for his sins, and made good use of the short time he had to live, in a solemn preparation for eternity. On the day before his execution he received the sacrament, and then signed the following solemn declaration, which he requested might be dispersed through the several towns and villages in the county:

“ Good



“ Good People,

“ I beseech you all to take warning by an unhappy man’s suffering; that you be not deluded into so absurd and wicked a conceit, as to believe that there are any such beings upon earth as witches.

“ It was that foolish and vain imagination, heightened and inflamed by the strength of liquor, which prompted me to be instrumental (with others as mad as myself) in the horrid and barbarous murder of Ruth Osborne, the supposed witch, for which I am now so deservedly to suffer death.

“ I am fully convinced of my former error, and, with the sincerity of a dying man, declare that I do not believe there is such a thing in being as a witch; and pray God that none of you, through a contrary persuasion, may hereafter be induced to think that you have a right in any shape to persecute, much less endanger the life of a fellow-creature. I beg of you all to pray to God to forgive me, and to wash clean my polluted soul in the blood of Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Redeemer.

“ So exhorteth you all, the dying

“ THOMAS COLLEY.”

The day before his execution, he was removed from the gaol of Hertford, under the escort of a hundred men of the Oxford Blues, commanded by seven officers; and being lodged in the gaol of St. Albans, was put into a chaise at five o’clock the next morning, with the hangman, and reached the place of execution about eleven, where his wife and daughter came to take leave of him; and the minister of Tring assisted him in his last moments,

when he exhibited all the marks of unfeigned penitence and devout contrition.

He was executed on the 24th of August, 1751, and afterwards hung in chains at a place called Gubblecut, near where the offence was committed.

It is astonishing that any person can be so stupid as to believe in the ridiculous doctrine of witchcraft. How absurd to suppose that the power of Heaven is delegated to a weak and frail mortal; and, of all mortals, to a poor decrepid old woman! for we never hear of a young witch, but through the fascination of the eyes. Just when a woman has been poor and old enough to obtain the pity and compassion of every one; when nothing has remained to her but her innocence, her piety, and her tabby cat; then has she, by the voice of superstition, been dignified with the presumed possession of a power which the God of Heaven alone could exert!

It is remarkable, in the story before us, that the insurgents, in search of the presumed witch and wizard, had recourse to the salt-box. What a strange madness of credulity must have inflamed their minds! The reflection of a moment would have told them, that, if the old folks had possessed power to have contracted themselves within the compass of a salt-box, they would have been able to have disappeared entirely; or even to have destroyed their persecutors by a mere effort of the will.

Pity is it, for the honour of common sense and true religion, and for the sake of example throughout the kingdom, that others, as well as Colley, had not been punished for this atrocious murder. As it is, however, his death has been of public service. We have heard of no ducking of witches presumptive since that time.

Those

Those who are acquainted with history will observe, that what would have been deemed meritorious in the reign of James the First, became criminal in that of George the Second ; thanks to the increasing good sense, the knowledge, the learning, of the age !

The first-mentioned monarch wrote a book on the subject of witchcraft, which he called “*Demonologia* ;” and the complaisant parliament of his days passed a bill, to make it felony for any man or woman to be guilty of witchcraft : and in consequence thereof many innocent persons were murdered under the form of law : but this act was repealed by the wisdom of later times.

Hence, however, we may learn the fatal consequences of superstition : but the generous mind will reflect with pain, that of those who have been punished on charges of witchcraft, many of them have owed their sufferings to the pedantic superstition of that FOOL of all PRINCES, that PRINCE of FOOLS, KING JAMES the First !



Account of JAMES WELCH, and THOMAS JONES, who were hanged at *Kennington Common* for *Murder*.

THOSE who have attentively read our account of the unfortunate Coleman, will recollect what presumptive evidence there arose of his innocence ; and the following narrative will make it evident that he *was* innocent.

About two years after Coleman’s death, it was discovered that James Welch, Thomas Jones, and John Nichols, were the persons who actually treated

Sarah Green in that inhuman manner which occasioned her death. These offenders had been acquainted from their childhood, and had kept the murder a secret, till it was discovered in the following manner.

Welch, and a young fellow named James Bush, being walking on the road to Newington Butts, their conversation happened to turn on the subject of those who had been executed without being guilty; and Welch said, "Among whom was Coleman. Nichols, Jones, and I, were the persons who committed the murder for which he was hanged." In the course of conversation Welch owned that, having been at a public-house called Sor's-hole, they had drank plentifully, and on their return through Kennington-lane, they met with a woman, with whom they went as far as the parsonage walk, near the church-yard of Newington, where she was so horridly abused by Nichols and Jones, that Welch declined offering her any farther insult.

Bush did not at that time appear to pay any particular attention to what he heard: but soon afterwards, as he was crossing London-bridge with his father, he addressed him as follows: "Father, I have been extremely ill; and as I am afraid I shall not live long, I should be glad to discover something that lays heavy on my mind."

Hereupon they went to a public-house in the Borough, where Bush related his story to his father, which was scarce ended, when seeing Jones at the window, they called him in, and desired him to drink with them.

He had not been long in company, when they told him they heard he was one of the murderers of Sarah Green, on whose account Coleman suffered death.



death. Jones trembled and turned pale on hearing what they said; but soon assuming a degree of courage, said, "What does it signify? The man is hanged, and the woman dead, and nobody can hurt us;" to which he added, "We were connected with a woman, but who can tell that was the woman Coleman died for?"

In consequence of this acknowledgement, Nichols, Jones, and Welch, were soon afterwards apprehended; when all of them steadily denied their guilt; and the hear-say testimony of Bush being all that could be adduced against them, Nichols was admitted evidence for the crown; in consequence of which all the particulars of the horrid murder were developed.

The prisoners being brought to trial at the next assizes for the county of Surry, Nichols deposed, that himself, with Welch and Jones, having been drinking at the house called *Sot's-hole*, on the night that the woman was used in such an inhuman manner, they quitted that house, in order to return home, when meeting a woman, they asked her if she would drink; which she declined, unless they would go to the *King's-head*, where she would treat them with a pot of beer.

Hereupon they went, and drank both beer and geneva with her; and then all the parties going forward to the parsonage-walk, the poor woman was treated in a manner too shocking to be described. It appeared that, at the time of the perpetration of the fact, the murderers wore white aprons; and that Jones and Welch called Nichols by the name of Coleman; circumstances that evidently led to the prior conviction of that unfortunate man.

On

On the whole state of the evidence there seemed to be no doubt of the guilt of the prisoners, so that the jury did not hesitate to convict them, and sentence of death passed of course.

After conviction these malefactors behaved with the utmost contrition, being attended by the Rev. Dr. Howard, rector of St. George's, Southwark, to whom they readily confessed their offences. They likewise signed a declaration, which they begged might be published, containing the fullest assertion of Coleman's innocence; and, exclusive of this acknowledgment, Welch wrote to the brother of Coleman, confessing his guilt, and begging his prayers and forgiveness.

The sister of Jones living in the service of a genteel family at Richmond, he wrote to her to make interest in his favour: but the answer he received was, that his crime was of such a nature, that she could not ask a favour for him with any degree of propriety. She earnestly begged of him to prepare for death, and implore a pardon at that tribunal where alone it could be expected.

Welch and Jones were executed at Kennington common, on the 6th of September, 1751.

This story is one of the many in this work, which ought to teach us a due regard to the mysterious dispensations of Providence. Coleman was hanged for a crime which he never committed; and at length the real murderers suffered for that very crime.

However slow the hand of justice, it is sure: it will overtake the guilty in this world or the next; and happy may those think themselves, however great their sufferings in this life, who can die with a calm conscience in the hope of eternal mercy.

The

Account of SAMUEL HILL, who was hanged  
at *Tyburn*, for *Murder*.

THIS malefactor was a native of Buckeridge in Staffordshire, received a decent education, was apprenticed to a shoemaker, and served his time with fidelity.

At the expiration of his servitude he came to London, and worked as a journeyman till he had saved about ten pounds; and this instance of his industry and frugality coming to the knowledge of his aunt, who lived at Hawkehurst in Kent, she bequeathed him fifty pounds by her will.

On the death of the aunt he received the money, married, and commenced business as a master in Kent; where he unfortunately got connected with some smugglers, who dealt with him for shoes, for which they paid him in smuggled articles.

This connexion was very pernicious to Hill; for a party of dragoons attacking the smugglers, and Hill taking part with the latter, was desperately wounded. In the end, the smugglers were victorious; but Hill being wounded, was obliged to get on board a cutter, which carried him to France, where he put himself under the care of a surgeon, and was perfectly cured.

When restored to health, he returned to England with a quantity of contraband goods; but the Custom-house officers soon afterwards attacked him and another smuggler, and took them into custody. They continued seven months in prison; and were then released by an order from the Exchequer.

Hill and his associates now bought a quantity of prohibited goods, and proceeded towards London to sell them; but being attacked by several Custom-house

house officers on the Deptford road, an engagement ensued, in which one of the officers was wounded in the leg, and the smugglers got off, and sold their goods in London.

Not long after this the smugglers paid an officer a sum of money to connive at their proceedings; instead of which he laid an information against them; whereupon they pulled down his house, to testify their revenge. Thence they went to Sandwich, and attempted to land some run goods; but a party of dragoons attacking them, one of the smugglers was killed on the spot, on which the rest galloped off with the utmost precipitation.

Not long after this affair, the officers made an attack on the smugglers near Bromley, when one of the latter was wounded, and three horses were killed belonging to the opposite party. The smugglers now vowed revenge against the Custom-house officers, one of whom they seized, and conveying him to the house of Hill, treated him, for ten successive days, with the utmost barbarity.

At length they consulted whether they should murder the unhappy man; but some of them advising that he should be sent to France, he was conveyed to the sea-side, and proposals made to take him on board a cutter: but the master of the vessel, having been formerly punished for receiving a person on board in a similar situation, refused to accept him, unless he would declare that it was his free will to go; and this declaration not being made, the smugglers beat him severely, and then permitted him to depart.

Soon after this transaction, Hill grew tired of his connexion with the smugglers, and retired to the practice of his own business; a circumstance that exasperated his late associates to such a degree, that  
they



they robbed his house of effects to a considerable amount, and a hundred and fifty pounds in cash.

Distressed by this circumstance, and apprehensive of farther consequences, Hill determined not to remain longer in the country, and therefore wrote a letter to his sister in London, who took a house for him, whither he removed, and soon afterwards buried three children, who died of the small-pox.

Hill went to visit a smuggler who was confined in Newgate, but had formed a design of effecting his escape, which he communicated to Hill, and offered him a hundred pounds to assist him in putting it into execution. The proposal was, that some other smugglers should come to Newgate, with offensive weapons hid under their cloaths, and having seized the keepers, should set the prisoners at liberty. Hill endeavoured to engage the smugglers to take a part in this affair; but they were too cautious to embark in so hazardous an undertaking.

Hill, however, was daring enough to afford assistance to the prisoner, who effected his escape, but was not generous enough to give even a single shilling to his agent. After this, Hill was promised a sum of money to assist another smuggler in making his escape from Newgate: in consequence of which he did all in his power to forward the plan, but never obtained the least gratuity for his trouble.

Hill's wife dying about this time, he seemed to decline all farther thought of acquiring money in a dishonest way; and boarding in the house of a widow woman at Poplar, obtained his living by working as a journeyman at his own business: but at length he became in debt to his landlady, who seized a new suit of cloaths for what he owed her.

Exasperated by this circumstance, Hill, on the following morning, attempted to wrest the keys of

the house from the woman's hands ; but, on her making resistance, he seized a rope that lay by him, with which he strangled her so that she expired immediately. This being done, he robbed the house, and put the stolen effects on board a boat, which went down the river : but being pursued, he was soon taken, and carried before a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate.

Being brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death ; after which he submitted with the utmost patience to his fate, confessing that he was highly deserving of the ignominy that his complicated crimes had brought on him.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 23d of March, 1752, after cautioning the surrounding multitude to take warning by his fate.

A few words only will be necessary by way of remark on the case and fate of this malefactor. His unhappy connexion with the smugglers seems to have hardened his mind, so as to have rendered him capable of the commission of any crime, even of the greatest.

From his unhappy end, then, we ought to learn to be cautious how we violate the laws of honesty in the smallest degree, since such violation too often leads to the perpetration of the most enormous offences !



Account of JOHN ANDREWS, who was hanged at Tyburn for Forgery.

THIS offender was born in Essex, and having commenced grazier, sent a number of cattle to Smithfield market ; but after a series of trade in  
this

this way, he sailed to the East Indies, where he acquired a sufficient sum to enable him to deal in seamen's tickets, on his return to England.

This business, sufficiently oppressive to the poor sailors, he carried to the height of extortion, and frequently obtained of them fifty per cent. on the advancing money on their tickets. After thus lending money for some time, he ventured on the dangerous practice of forging the wills of seamen, in order to defraud the widows; and met with a narrow escape at Maidstone, on a charge of publishing a forged letter of attorney.

Andrews employed some women of his acquaintance in London, to whom he used to give small gratuities to personate the widows of seamen, and by their perjuries he frequently acquired considerable sums of money.

This mode of practice at length brought him to destruction, as will appear from the following narrative. Quarrelling with a woman named Elizabeth Nicholls, with whom he was connected, blows ensued, and the woman determined to be revenged; but disguised her sentiments, till she had an opportunity of injuring him in the most essential manner.

He applied to her on a particular occasion to personate the widow of a seaman to whom thirty pounds were due, and to swear that she had a will in her favour. The woman, with a view first to make an advantage of Andrews, and then to betray him, did as she was directed, and signed her name to a forged will in Doctors Commons; in consequence of which Andrews received thirty pounds at the navy office, and became possessed of the seaman's ticket for fourteen pounds.

This ticket he offered for sale to a man who kept an alehouse in Oxford-road ; but the latter refused to buy it, unless the woman would sign the receipt for it, which she readily did, expecting Andrews would give her a good part of the money thus illegally obtained ; but on his refusal to give her more than half a guinea, she determined on immediate revenge.

To carry her scheme into effectual execution, she went to another woman with whom Andrews was connected, and both of them having given information against him, he was taken into custody, and lodged in Newgate.

As it was presumed that his offences had been numerous, the following scheme was adopted to find full evidence of his guilt. The lord-mayor commissioned a person, who had formerly known him, to go to Newgate, and hint to him that a warrant would be issued to search his lodgings. Andrews having papers which he thought of great consequence to conceal, desired his supposed friend to pack them in a basket, and leave them with an acquaintance in the Minories.

Hereupon the prisoner gave the man his keys, and he went and packed up the goods, and carried them as directed. This was done to discover, if possible, whether Andrews had any accomplices : that, if he had, his guilt might be the more clearly ascertained, by procuring strong evidence against him.

When the papers were deposited in the Minories the lord-mayor issued a search warrant ; in consequence of which his officers found sixty-four forged wills, and powers of attorney ; but no proof arose that he had any accomplices, except the women whom he had employed as his agents. One of these



these women, however, deposed that she had received above five hundred pounds for him, by swearing to forged wills; but that half a guinea for each perjury was all the gratification she received.

Andrews, who was in possession of a considerable sum of money when he was committed to Newgate, had no idea that sufficient evidence could be adduced of his guilt; but when he was brought to trial, the testimony of the two women was so positive against him, that the jury did not hesitate to convict him, and sentence of death passed of course.

His behaviour after conviction was remarkably morose, reserved, and untractable. He absolutely refused the good offices of the ordinary of Newgate, which at first caused a suspicion that he was a Roman Catholic; but as he was not visited by any priests of that persuasion, this suspicion wore off, and his refusal was attributed to the obstinacy and gloom of his own mind.

He refused to acknowledge the justice of the sentence by which he was condemned; alledging, in excuse for his conduct, that having lost large sums of money by some seamen, he was justified in endeavouring to make others pay the deficiency.

He seemed agitated in the highest degree when he was put into the cart on the morning of execution. His whole frame was convulsed; and when at the fatal tree, despair seemed to have taken possession of his soul. He only said a short prayer, but refused to address the surrounding multitude.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 23d March, 1752.

The crimes of this man were of the greatest magnitude; a continued series of fraud and robbery, supported

supported by the perjuries of ignorant creatures, whom he employed: and it is hardly a breach of charity to say, that he was equally guilty of those perjuries with the poor wretches who actually committed them; perhaps more so, as his knowledge must be supposed to have been superior to theirs.

If the crime of forgery was less enormous than it is, one would think the excess of danger attending it would prevent any man from being guilty of it. Fatal experience, however, too frequently proves the contrary.

Let us hope, however, that the fatal examples of the many unhappy victims to the rigid (and in this case necessary) justice of their country, will have a good effect in future; and that this crime may decrease in proportion as, for some years past, it has unhappily increased, to the injury of many an individual, and the utter ruin of many a worthy family.

It is dreadful to reflect on the number of widows and orphans who have become such through the horrid prevalence of this practice; which, as it is generally committed by persons in a rank of life above the vulgar, it is to be hoped those who may be tempted to the commission of it, will have sense and virtue enough to make the proper use of these admonitions, and to consult their own safety, while they have a due regard not to infringe the property of their neighbours.

---

Account of the Life of ANTHONY DE ROSS,  
who was hanged at Tyburn, for Murder.

THIS malefactor was the son of an Englishman, of Portuguese extraction; but his father going abroad, settled in one of the Bermuda islands, where







*Anthony & Emanuel de Rosa & W<sup>m</sup> Gallagher murdering Mr. Parkes in the Night near the Barking dogs  
Houston.*



where he married a Portuguese woman, and Anthony was the first child of that marriage.

His father, being at different times master of several vessels which traded up the Mediterranean, brought his son up as a seaman, and he continued with him till the death of his father, and when that event happened, he engaged himself as mate in another vessel, in which station he continued about two years.

The vessel putting into the port of Lisbon, De Rosa embarked on board an English man of war, bound to Ireland, and afterwards to this kingdom. When the ship's crew were paid off, he quitted the naval service, lived in an idle manner, and supported himself some time by forging seamen's wills and powers. After this he became acquainted with Emanuel De Rosa, and one Fullagar, with whom he combined in the commission of robberies.

On the 11th of June, 1751, Mr. William Fargues, a young gentleman who lived in London, went to dine with his uncle, who kept an academy at Hoxton; and having staid to supper, left the house about a quarter after ten o'clock, on his return to town.

Between eleven and twelve o'clock, on the night the murder was committed, Mr. Hendrop, of Hoxton, was going home to his house, when seeing two men standing by a person lying on the ground, he asked what was the matter; to which one of them replied, "I believe there is a gentleman murdered." Mr. Hendrop took hold of his hand, and found it warm. He then lifted up the body of the wounded man, who seemed to attempt to speak; but was unable. He then observed that the body was bloody, and felt some blood withinside the  
cloaths;

cloaths; on which he went to a public-house in the neighbourhood, where meeting some men who had a lantern, he returned with them to the spot; but the party was then dead, though by the cloaths it was known to be Mr. William Farques: on which the body was carried to the house of his uncle.

The coroner took an inquisition on this occasion; when the verdict of the jury was, "Wilful Murder, by persons unknown." We have mentioned that this affair happened on the night of the 11th of June; but a discovery of the perpetrators of it did not arise till above six months afterwards.

On the 26th of December Emanuel De Rosa was apprehended as a disorderly person, and lodged in Bridewell; where the terrors of his conscience, on the reflection on the murder, were so great, that he determined to make a ~~discovery~~ of the affair, at once to ease his mind and preserve his life, by becoming an evidence for the crown.

Having informed the keeper of Bridewell of his intention, he then sent to Anthony De Rosa to come and see him; on which he was taken into custody, having in his pocket a knife with which he had stabbed the deceased.

Emanuel De Rosa having given in his deposition before a magistrate, was admitted an evidence; and when the trial came on at the Old Bailey, he swore to the following particulars:

That he had been acquainted with the prisoner about three years, and had been concerned with him in forgery, and defrauding people of money; that the prisoner came to his lodgings near the Maypole in East Smithfield, about nine o'clock on the night the robbery was committed; that they  
went

went together to the Minories, where they found Fullagar; when all three of them went down Houndsditch into Moorfields, towards the Barking-dogs \*, where many people were then walking. The prisoner said he wanted money that night, and bade them come along, and not be afraid of any thing. They walked backwards and forwards for some time, thinking it was too soon to attack any body, as the clock had not then struck ten.

The prisoner soon afterwards said, "Let us cross over that road," meaning by the Barking-dogs; and the gentleman who was murdered was coming alone in the middle of the path, when the prisoner asked him for his money. Mr. Farques said, "Gentlemen, I have no money for myself." Upon this, Fullagar gave him two or three blows on the head with a stick, which had a piece of iron on its head. Hereupon the gentleman turned round; on which Fullagar struck him on the back of the head; but, as he did not fall, Anthony De Rosa bade the evidence hold his arm, which he did, and the other drew a knife, and stabbed him five or six times in the breast and body, as fast as he could repeat the blows; and Fullagar at the same time striking him near the ear, he fell against the pales. The prisoner and Fullagar now searched his pockets, and the former produced eleven shillings only.

The murderers now went together to the Nag's-head on Tower-hill, and drank two pots of beer; and there the evidence received two shillings as his share of the plunder. About ten o'clock the

VOL. III. No. 31.

3 C

next

---

\* This murder was committed within a few yards of a public-house called the Barking-dogs, opposite the late Mr. Whitefield's tabernacle.

next morning, the prisoner called on the evidence, and bade him take care of himself, for that he and Fullagar were going down to Chatham.

The reader is already apprized of the circumstance which led to the apprehension of Anthony De Rosa, on whose trial the knife with which he had stabbed Mr. Farques was produced; yet he steadily denied the having any concern in the wicked transaction, and attempted to set up a defence, by endeavouring to prove an *alibi*; for Dorothy Black, and her son, swore, that on the 11th of June the prisoner had a cold; and the woman added, that she gave him a sweat; and that he was not out of her house one minute during the whole day and night; and this latter circumstance was likewise sworn to by the son.

No credit, however, was given to the testimony of these evidences: the jury found the prisoner guilty; and the court directed that Dorothy Black and her son should be taken into custody, to be tried for perjury.

At the time of trial the prisoner was exceedingly debilitated by illness; but being considerably recovered in about ten days, he was advised to make a full confession of the barbarous fact for which his life was so soon to pay the forfeit; and to consider the consequence of dying in the solemn attestation of a falsehood.

In reply to this serious exhortation, he said, "I am as innocent as the child unborn;" and being farther urged on the subject, he exclaimed, "Would you have me own myself guilty of what I know no more of than you do? I know if I be guilty, and deny it, I must send my soul to the bottom of hell, which I hope I know better than to do."

He was equally obstinate at the place of execution, in denying the fact for which he suffered,  
I
solemnly



solemnly declaring to the last that he knew nothing of the matter.

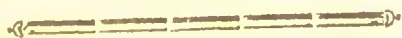
He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 23d of March, 1752.

The horrid nature and unprovokedness of the crime which cost this man his life is almost without example. To the honour of this country be it remarked, that the instances of murder, in consequence of robbery, are fewer with us than in most of the other kingdoms of Europe; and we hope they will be fewer than they have been.

The source of De Rosa's misfortunes appears to have been idleness; for, if he had followed the lawful calling in which he was brought up, he might have lived happy in himself, and been an useful member of society: instead of which he was cut off in the prime of life, (for he was only 28 years of age when he suffered) and became an object of public contempt and abhorrence.

Of all things, then, let youth avoid idleness; let them consider that industry is the road to riches and honour; let them remember, and apply, the words of the poet:

In works of labour, or of skill,  
I would be busy too;  
For Satan finds some mischief still  
For idle hands to do.



The extraordinary Case, Conviction, and Execution of Captain JAMES LOWRY, who was hanged at *Execution-dock*, for Murder.

CAPTAIN Lowry was a native of Scotland, and, having received a liberal education, was, at his own request, apprenticed to the master of a

trading vessel, with whom he served his time faithfully.

After rising by degrees to the command of a vessel, he was employed by some merchants of Jamaica to conduct a ship of theirs to England, and during the voyage committed the crime which cost him his life; the particulars of which will be seen in the following abstract of his trial.

On the 18th of February, 1752, James Lowry was indicted at a sessions of admiralty held at the Old Bailey, for the wilful murder of Kenith Hosfack.

James Gatherah, mate of the vessel, deposed that they left Jamaica on the 28th of October, 1750, having on board fourteen hands: that, on the 24th of December, he came on deck between four and five in the afternoon, and saw the deceased tied up, one arm to the haulyards and the other to the main-shrouds, when the prisoner was beating him with a rope about an inch and a half in thickness. This deponent returning again in half an hour, the prisoner begged to be let down, on a call of nature; the captain being now below, Gatherah obtained his permission to release him for the present, but was to tie him up again: but when let down, he was unable to stand; which being made known to Lowry, he said "D—n the rascal, he *shams* Abraham\*," and ordered him to be again tied up. This was done; but he was not made so fast as before; which the captain observing, ordered his arms to be extended to the full stretch, and, taking the rope, beat him on the back, breast, head, shoulders, face and temples, for about half an hour, occasionally walking about to take breath.

About

---

\* A sea-term for pretending to be ill, when able to do duty.

*Engraved for The New Newgate Calendar*



*KEN<sup>d</sup>. HOSSACK flogged & murdered by JA<sup>s</sup>. LOWRY  
Captain of a Jamaica Ship.*







About six o'clock he hung back his head, and appeared motionless : on which Lowry ordered him to be cut down, and said to Gatherah, " I am afraid Kenny is dead." Gatherah replied, " I am sorry for it ; but hope not." Gatherah then felt his pulse ; but finding no motion there, or at his heart, said " I am afraid he is dead, indeed ;" on which the captain gave the deceased a slap on the face, and exclaimed " D—n him, he is only shamming Abraham now."

On this the deceased was wrapped up in a fail, and carried to the steerage, where Lowry whetted a penknife, and Gatherah attempted to bleed him ; but without effect. Gatherah deposed farther, that the deceased had been ill of a fever ; but was then recovering, and though not well enough to go aloft, was able to do many parts of his duty.

Gatherah likewise deposed to the tyranny and cruelty of the captain to the whole ship's company, except one James Stuart ; and gave several instances of his inhumanity, particularly that of his beating them with a cane, which he called " the Royal Oak Foremast."

It was asked of Gatherah, why Lowry was not confined till the 29th of December, as the murder of Hossack took place on the 24th ; to which he answered, that the ship's crew had been uneasy, and proposed to confine the captain : but that he (Gatherah) represented the leaky condition of the ship, which made it necessary that two pumps should be kept going night and day ; and the ship's crew were so sickly, that not a hand could be conveniently spared : that he believed the captain would be warned by what he had done, and treat the rest of the crew better during the remainder of the voyage : that Lowry could not escape while on the voyage,  
and

and that on their arrival in England he might be charged with the murder before any magistrate.

The seamen were satisfied by these arguments : but Lowry continuing his severities, it was determined to deprive him of his command, and confine him to the cabin. At length the ship became so leaky, that they did not expect to live from night till morning ; and the men quitted the pumps, and took a solemn farewell of each other : but Gatherah advised them to renew their endeavours to save the vessel, and to steer for the port of Lisbon.

This advice was followed ; and having arrived off the rock of Lisbon, they hoisted a signal for a pilot, and one coming off in a fishing-boat, found that they had no product \* ; on which he declined conducting them into port : but by this pilot the captain sent a letter to the British consul, informing him that the crew had mutinied : on which the consul came on board, put ten of the seamen under an arrest, and sent them to England on board a man of war, then bound homewards.

The account given by Gatherah to the consul corresponded with that he had given in evidence at the Old Bailey. During the voyage, the crew of Lowry's ship worked their passage ; and, on their arrival in England, though they were committed to the keeper of the Marshalsea prison, they had liberty to go out when they pleased ; and considered themselves only as evidences against Lowry.

The rest of the crew, who were examined on the trial, gave testimony corresponding with that of Gatherah ; and declared that the deceased was sober and honest. Some questions were asked, if they  
thought

\* That is, they had no effects to dispose of.

thought Lowry's ill treatment was the occasion of Hoffack's death. They said there was no doubt of it; "that it would have killed him had he been in health and strength, or the stoutest man living."

It may be proper to mention that Lowry, having taken men on board to work his ship to England, arrived soon after his accusers; but they having given previous information to the lords of the admiralty, a reward was offered for apprehending him: he remained some time concealed; but at length he was discovered by a thief-taker, who took him into custody, and received ten guineas from the marshal of the admiralty.

By way of defence, Lowry addressed himself to the court in the following terms:

—"My Lord, and Gentlemen of the Jury, my case is exceeding hard; the witnesses that have been produced against me have agreed to swear this murder upon me, well knowing that if they do not take away my life, their own will be in danger; as I hope to make appear. In October, 1750, I set sail from Jamaica in the Molly, of which I was commander, with thirteen hands, besides myself, on board: we were bound for London. I had not been long at sea, but I found that I had got a set of the most wicked, drunken, idle fellows, that ever came into a ship. I had great apprehensions that they intended to run away with the ship; and so I told Captain Dalton of the Nancy, who came from Jamaica with me, and begged he would keep me company, and observe what course we kept: this the witness Gatherah knew, if he would have been honest and spoke the truth; but he has sworn with a halter about his neck. Often when I awaked, I found they

"had

“ had altered the ship’s course while I was asleep ;  
 “ and Gatherah, who was my chief mate, often  
 “ insulted me, and used me so very ill, that I was  
 “ obliged to turn him out of my mess, and forbid  
 “ him my cabin. Roberts, my second mate, hav-  
 “ ing rum, he would sell it to the men, notwith-  
 “ standing I forbid him often ; by which means  
 “ they were scarce ever sober. Our ship being  
 “ leaky, we were obliged to keep continually  
 “ pumping ; and some of the men being sick, oc-  
 “ casioned by their drinking so much rum, I could  
 “ not but be very angry with Roberts, for supply-  
 “ ing the men with so much liquor.

“ On the 23d day of December, though the  
 “ witnesses swear the 24th, one of the men had  
 “ lost a bottle of rum, and I was informed the de-  
 “ ceased had taken and drunk it ; at the same time  
 “ William Waum came to me, and complained he  
 “ had lost a note, and believed that Kenith Hof-  
 “ sack had stole it, (though he denies he said it  
 “ now) upon which I called the deceased upon  
 “ deck, to examine him, and found he was so  
 “ drunk, he was scarce able to stand ; therefore I  
 “ ordered him to be tied to the rails of the ship,  
 “ till he was sober, for, if he had gone down to  
 “ his cabin, he would have got more rum, and  
 “ so endangered his life, he having been sick with  
 “ drinking before. The deceased being a comical  
 “ fellow, I took a bit of rope and flourished it  
 “ three times round, gave him a stroke or two  
 “ upon the breech, not so hard as to hurt him,  
 “ more than I do this book, (striking his hand  
 “ gently on the log-book that lay on the bar):  
 “ after he had been tied some time to the rails, he  
 “ fell backwards, and foamed at the mouth : I then  
 “ cut him loose, and he fell down, and I believe  
 “ his



" his being intoxicated, and struggling to get loose  
 " might suffocate him. I did all I could to re-  
 " cover him, as the witnesses against me have al-  
 " lowed. I was not then charged with murdering  
 " the deceased; nor did I hear any thing of such  
 " a charge till five or six days after Hossack's  
 " death, when they deprived me of the command,  
 " confined me, seized the ship, altered her course,  
 " which was for England, and carried her to Lis-  
 " bon. I had prepared a letter to send ashore by  
 " the first boat that came on board to the English  
 " consul, informing him of the situation I was in;  
 " who came on board, examined us all, reinstated  
 " me in the command of the ship, which I  
 " brought home safe to England. The witnesses  
 " were sent home prisoners on board a man of  
 " war, upon my accusation of mutiny and piracy.  
 " It cannot be supposed the consul would have  
 " trusted me with the command of the ship, if I  
 " had been under the charge of murder."

After the evidence was recapitulated by the judge,  
 the jury retired for about half an hour, and then  
 delivered their verdict that the prisoner was guilty;  
 on which he received sentence of death, and orders  
 were given for his being hung in chains.

After conviction, Lowry behaved with great ap-  
 parent courage and resolution, till a smith came  
 to take measure of him for his chains; when he  
 fainted away, and fell on his bed, and was mea-  
 sured while insensible. On his recovery, he said  
 that it was the disgrace of a public exposure that  
 had affected him, and not the fear of death.

On the morning of his death, he seemed greatly  
 affected when first put into the cart, but soon re-  
 covering a greater degree of courage, he bore his

calamity with a tolerable share of serenity, notwithstanding the cart was surrounded by a number of sailors, who poured execrations on him, for the barbarity he had shewn to one of their brethren.

The procession having reached Execution-dock, he was placed on a scaffold erected under the gibbet; when, after a short time spent in devotion, he underwent the sentence of the law, having first given the executioner his watch and money.

This malefactor suffered on the 25th of March, 1752; after which his body was put into a boat, carried down the river, and hung in chains on the bank of the Thames.

The fate of this criminal exhibits a striking lesson of caution against the practice of cruelty to our fellow-creatures. Lowry's crimes appear to have arisen from wanton barbarity, and a hardness of heart, from which we ought all to pray to God to defend us.

At the time his crime came to the knowledge of the public, he was the object of universal detestation; and the phrase of "sham Abraham" was common in the mouths of the vulgar. Scarce any criminal has been more the subject of conversation, or died less pitied, than captain Lowry.—May none of his brethren of the watery element hereafter imitate his example! Great power is lodged in the hands of captains of ships; and they should keep a double guard over their own hearts, not to violate that power. There are no men braver than our British tars; none that ought to be treated with more generous instances of humanity.

Those who are tempted (whatever their situation in life) to acts of barbarity, should remember that we daily pray to be forgiven our trespasses, "as we forgive those who trespass against us;" and they

they should appeal to Heaven, in the words of the poet,

*That Mercy I to others shew;  
That Mercy shew to me!*



Account of WILLIAM STROUD, who was convicted of *Fraud*, and *Publicly Whipped*.

**T**HIS offender was well born and educated; but very early in life took to little tricks of cheating, which sufficiently marked his character. When but a school-boy, he used to purloin blank leaves from the books of his companions, and was remarkable for robbing them of their marbles.

This disposition continued while he was an apprentice; and at length he embarked in business for himself: but he had not been long a master before he considered trade as a drudgery; on which he sold off his stock, took lodgings in Bond-street, and assumed the character of a fine gentleman.

He now lived in a most expensive manner, supplying the extravagances of women of ill-fame; which soon reducing him to indigent circumstances, he fixed on a plan of defrauding individuals; for which purpose he got credit with a tailor for some elegant suits of apparel, took a genteel house, and put some servants into livery; by which he imposed himself on the public as a man of a large estate.

An extensive credit, and a splendid mode of living, was the consequence of his elegant appearance; but some tradesmen bringing in bills, which he was equally unable and unwilling to discharge, he sold off his household furniture, and privately decamped.

He now took handsome lodgings in Bloomsbury; and, dressing himself in velvet cloaths, he pretended to be the steward of a nobleman of high rank. He likewise took a house in Westminster, in which he placed an agent, who ordered in goods as for the nobleman; and the tradesmen who delivered these goods were directed to leave their bills for the examination of the steward; but the effects were no sooner in possession, than they were sold to a broker, to the great loss of the respective tradesmen.

Stroud used to travel into the country in summer, and having learnt the names of London traders with whom people of fortune dealt, he used to write in their names for goods; but constantly meeting the waggons that conveyed them, generally received the effects before they reached the places to which they were directed.

It would be endless to mention all the frauds of which he was guilty. London and the country were equally laid under contribution by him: and jewellers, watchmakers, lacemen, tailors, drapers, upholders, silversmiths, silk-mercers, hatters, hosiery, &c. were frequent dupes to his artifices.

It was impossible for a man, proceeding in this manner, to evade justice. He was at length apprehended as a common cheat, and committed to the Gatehouse, Westminster. On his examination, a coachmaker charged him with defrauding him of a gilt chariot; a jeweller, of rings to the amount of a hundred pounds; a tailor, of a suit of velvet trimmed with gold; a cabinet-maker, of some valuable goods in his branch; and several other tradesmen, of various articles.

The grand jury having found bills of indictment against him, he was tried at the Westminster sessions,



sions, when full proof of his guilt arising, he was sentenced to be kept in Bridewell to hard labour for six months; and in the mean time to be publicly whipped six times, through different streets.

This sentence passed in March, 1752, and was rigorously inflicted; but not too much so, when we consider the nature and number of the crimes of which he had been guilty.

Our laws have, by many people, been thought too severe; perhaps with respect to a common defrauder they are not severe enough. A person who steals to a small value, in a shop or dwelling-house, if he be indicted for *privately* stealing, receives judgment of death; and we have had many instances of execution succeeding such conviction; whereas the sentence of the law is much more mild against the common defrauder; though his crime, in the eye of reason, be greatly superior to the other.

Perhaps the wisdom of the legislature has intended to discriminate between the obtaining goods by fraud, or in the way of trade, which is only debt: and indeed some apparent frauds approach so near to honest debt, and some debts to intentional defraud, that there is equal sagacity and humanity in the distinction.

Happy would it be, if we could always distinguish the oppressed honest man from the deliberate villain! Human laws, however wisely framed, must be imperfect; and we must wait, for a full explanation of apparent mysteries, to the great day, which shall shew us the final consummation of all things!

At the close of this narrative, it may not be improper to take notice of those arts of *swindling* by which such numbers of honest tradesmen have been

been defrauded, and the most atrocious of villains preyed on the public credulity.

It is the practice of these abandoned miscreants to act in concert : one of them hires a house, and appears as a merchant of great credit and importance ; while his accomplices get credit of any one who is weak enough to trust them, and give bills on the supposed merchant. These bills are generally received without suspicion ; for previous enquiry having been made respecting the character and circumstances of the merchant, no doubt of either remains ; and these impostors proceed for a long time, undetected.

Among the number of these atrocious offenders, the Jews have been principally concerned ; and it is not unfrequently that a Jew merchant is the acceptor of the false bills \* ; but the acceptor is never to be found when the day of payment arrives.

The prison of the King's Bench has been a wonderful seminary for the education of swindlers ; and many persons, even while under confinement, have supported themselves, and lived in a style of unusual elegance, by this illicit practice : and we are sorry to say, that after their clearance from imprisonment, by the favour of acts for relief of insolvent debtors, some of them have soon found their way into the same prison, and repeated their former strange mode of obtaining subsistence by the arts of fraud and chicanery.

Within

---

\* In ancient times Jews have been expelled the kingdom ; and in other instances, such taxes have been laid on them as were almost equal to an expulsion. It is pity this practice does not yet prevail, as these people are the most flagrant encouragers of thieves, by the reception of stolen goods.

Within a few years there has been established a society of tradesmen, for the preservation of their property against the arts of these insidious people. They meet at a coffee-house in the Strand, and subscribe a small annual sum for the support of each other, against the designs of some of the most abandoned people in the universe; nor do we hear that, since the establishment of the society, any one of its members has been defrauded: and even if he had been, so prudently have they managed their affairs, so excellent is their plan, that it would have been impossible for the defrauder to have escaped detection for any considerable time.

This evinces the propriety of tradesmen uniting in the defence of each other, against men abandoned of all principle, and totally lost to all those generous sentiments, those honest regards to the rule of right, which distinguish the fair trader from the secret and lurking villain.

Particular cases excepted, the plain path of honour is the readiest road to riches; nor do those who deviate from it find any satisfaction; on the contrary, all their hopes of riches, all their flattering schemes of grandeur, are blasted in the bud; and perhaps within a single day after they are rolling in their splendid chariots, or figuring away at the opera, they find themselves in a loathsome prison, destitute of the common comforts of life, and loaded with ignominious chains!

Would any man, then, in his senses, give up all his better hopes, all his fairer prospects, merely for the sake of becoming a villain? Surely no—Common sense dictates to us, that the great rule of right is the plain path to happiness; and even when wickedness (as some times, through the wise permission of Providence) proves apparently prosperous

perous in this life, the bed of the wicked must be a bed of thorns; perpetual anxiety must corrode his breast; and he must wait, amidst all his apparent splendor and gaiety (false splendor, and ill-assumed gaiety!) the arrival of that dreadful, that thrice important hour, when he must render an account of all that he has done in this life. A true account! and this truth will be compelled from his guilty conscience!—when no arts, no subterfuges (much as he may have boasted of them) will be found to avail him, but the truth will be apparent to surrounding men and angels!

Is not this consideration sufficient to strike terror into the guilty breast? Is it not sufficient to deter from the practice of the arts of chicanery?

Possibly not: there may be some so lost to all *future* considerations, as to regard only the *present* moment. These should learn, that our laws have provided punishments (if not adequate punishments) for every crime: and no man can violate those laws, without being in momentary danger of detection and punishment.

A man, who called himself the count de Nassau de Dietz, had long reigned a notorious defrauder in this kingdom. His artifices were numerous, and frequently successful. He for a considerable time laid snares for others; but at length fell into his own, and was for a considerable time on board one of the ballast-lighters on the Thames.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.



THE  
NEW AND COMPLETE  
**Newgate Calendar ;**  
OR,  
**VILLANY DISPLAYED**  
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

Containing New and Authentic Accounts of all the Lives, Adventures, Exploits, Trials, Executions, and Last Dying Speeches, Confessions, as well as Letters to their relatives never before published) of the most Notorious Malefactors and others of both Sexes and all Denominations, who have suffered Death and other exemplary Punishments for

|                 |                    |                    |                     |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Murders,        | Forgeries,         | Rapes,             | Swindling,          |
| Burglaries,     | Highway Robberies, | Riots, Mobbing,    | High-Treason,       |
| Felonies,       | Foolish Robberies, | Sodomy,            | Petit-Treason,      |
| Horse-Stealing, | Perjuries,         | Starving to Death, | Sedition, and other |
| Bigamy,         | Piracies,          | Sheep Stealing,    | Misdemeanors.       |

Interpersed with Notes, Reflections, and Remarks, arising from the several Subjects, Moral, Useful, and Entertaining.

Including the Transactions of the most remarkable Prisoners, tried for High Treason at the Old Bailey, viz. HARDY, HORNE TOOKE, THELWALL, &c.

Likewise the Trials of WATT, DOWNIE, PALMER, FITZGERALD, MARGAROTT, &c. &c. at Edinburgh for High Treason, Sedition, Libels, &c. &c.

Comprehending also, all the most material Passages in the SESSIONS PAPERS for a long Series of Years ; together with the ORDINARY of NEWGATE'S Account of the CAPITAL CONVICTS ; and complete NARRATIVES of all the most remarkable TRIALS.

Also a great Variety of the most important Lives and Trials never before published in any former Work of the Kind.

The whole containing the most faithful Narratives ever yet published of the various Executions, and other exemplary Punishments, which have happened in England, Scotland, and Ireland, from the Year 1700 to the present Time. Properly arranged from the Records of Court.

---

By WILLIAM JACKSON, Esq.

Of the Inner-Temple, Barrister at Law ; Assisted by Others.

---

How dreadful the Fate of the Wretches who fall,  
A Victim of Laws they have broke !  
Of Vice, the Beginning is frequently small,  
But how fatal at length is the Stroke !  
The Contents of these Volumes will amply display  
The steps which Offenders have trod :  
Learn hence, then, each Reader, the Laws to obey  
Of your Country, your King, and your God.

---

IN SIX VOLUMES.

---

V O L. IV.

---

Illustrated with upwards of Sixty elegant Copper Plates.

---

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETORS :

Published by ALEX. HOGG, No. 16, in Paternoster Row :  
And Sold by all Booksellers and Newsmen in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.







*The New SESSIONS-HOUSE, in the Old Bailey*



*Goldsmiths*

*Jn. Lodge sculp.*

*The New Goal of NEWGATE.*



---

T H E  
NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR;

O R,

MALEFACTOR'S BLOODY REGISTER.

---

Account of JOHN SWAN, and ELIZABETH JEFFRIES, who were hanged on *Epping-forest*, for *Murder*.

**M**R. Jeffries, whose fatal end gives rise to this narrative, had been a capital butcher in London, but had retired to Walthamstow, in Essex, to live on his fortune; and being a widower, without children, had taken his niece, Elizabeth Jeffries, to live with him.

John Swan was brought up to the business of husbandry, but had been engaged in the service of Mr. Jeffries, after having lived with several other people.

A dreadful outcry being heard at Walthamstow, about two o'clock in the morning of the 3d of July, 1751, Mr. Buckle, a near neighbour of Mr. Jeffries, awaked his wife, who said, "It is Miss Jeffries's tongue." Mrs. Buckle then going to the window, said, "There is Miss Jeffries in her shift, without shoe or stocking, at a neighbour's door." Mr. Buckle going to her, asked her the reason of her appearance in that manner; to which she said,

#### 4 NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR.

“ Oh! they have killed him, they have killed him, “ I fear.” On his desiring her to cover herself, she said, “ Don’t mind me; see after my uncle.”

Mr. Buckle going to the house, the door was opened by Swan, and the deceased was found lying on his right side, having three wounds on the left side of his head. The visitor taking him by the hand, said, “ My name is Edward Buckle; “ if you cannot speak to me, signify to me:” on which Jeffries squeezed him by the hand with as much force as he could.

Some hours after this, Miss Jeffries desired Mr. Buckle to send informations through the country of the murder of her uncle, with an account of such effects as had been stolen; which a Mrs. Martin said were, a silver tankard, a silver cup, and fifteen pewter-plates. Mr. Buckle said, “ If I “ could light on Matthews, I would take him up.” “ No (said Miss Jeffries) don’t meddle with him, “ for you will bring me into trouble, and yourself “ too, in so doing.”

Matthews, however, was taken into custody, and from his apprehension, and other circumstances, the following facts came to light.

Matthews, having travelled from Yorkshire in search of work, was accidentally met on Epping-forest by Mr. Jeffries, who, seeing him in distress, took him home to work as an assistant to Swan in the garden; the agreement being that he should have his food only as a gratuity, but no wages.

After he had been four days in this service, Miss Jeffries sent him up stairs to wipe a chest of drawers, and some chairs; but presently following him, said, “ What will you do, if a person would “ give you a hundred pounds?” He said, “ Any “ thing

“thing in an honest way;” on which she bade him go to Swan, and he would tell him.

Swan being in the garden, Matthews went to him, and told him the contents of the message; on which Swan smiled, took him to an out-house, and told him, if he would knock the old miser, his master, on the head, he would give him £. 700. Two days afterwards, Mr. Jeffries dismissed Matthews from his service, and gave him a shilling; and Swan, about the same time, gave him half a guinea to buy a brace of pistols, to murder their master.

Matthews, being possessed of this cash, went to the Green Man at Low Layton, where he spent all his money; which having done, he proceeded towards London; and being overtaken on the road by Swan, the latter asked him where he was going. Matthews said to London: on which the other took him to Mr. Gall's, the Green Man and Bell in Whitechapel, where they drank freely till night; and Swan, being intoxicated, swore he would fight the best man in the house for a guinea. He likewise pulled off his great coat, and threw it on the fire; but the landlord taking it off, and finding it very heavy, searched the pockets, in which he found a brace of pistols.

This circumstance giving rise to unfavourable suspicion, both the men were lodged in the round-house for that night; and being carried before Sir Samuel Gower the next day, he committed them to Clerkenwell-bridewell, as disorderly persons.

Miss Jeffries, being made acquainted with their situation, gave bail for their appearance; on which they all went to Gall's house in Whitechapel, where she upbraided Matthews with bringing Swan into a scrape. He denied that he had done  
so;

so; on which she gave him a shilling, and desired Swan to tell him to meet them at the Yorkshire Grey at Stratford. They went in a coach, and Matthews following on foot, found only Swan there, who gave him half a crown, and bade him meet him at six the next morning, at the Buck on Epping-forest. This he did, and, by appointment, came to Walthamstow on the Tuesday following, at ten o'clock at night.

When Matthews arrived, he found the garden-door on the latch, and, going into the pantry, hid himself behind a tub till about eleven o'clock, when Swan brought him some cold boiled beef.

About twelve, Miss Jeffries and Swan came to him; when the latter said, "Now it is time to knock the old miser, my master, on the head." Matthews relented, and said, "I cannot find in my heart to do it;" to which Miss Jeffries replied, "You may be damned for a villain, for not performing your promise." Swan, who was provided with pistols, likewise damned Matthews, and said he had a mind to blow his brains out for the refusal.

Swan then produced a book, and insisted that Matthews should swear that he would not discover what had passed: which he did, with this reserve, "not unless it was to save his own life."

Soon after this, Matthews heard the report of a pistol; when getting out of the house by the back way, he crossed the Ferry, whence he proceeded to Enfield-chace.

It has been mentioned that Miss Jeffries was found in her shift, after the commission of the murder. We have now to add, that she screamed out "Diaper! Diaper! for God's sake, help!" "Murder! Fire! Thieves!" The neighbour, Mr. Diaper,







W. G. S. J. N. & S. Sculp.

*Surgeon Forbes visiting M<sup>r</sup> JEFFRIES at Walthamstow,  
who had just before been shot by J<sup>n</sup> SWAN.*

Diaper, saw Miss Jeffries half way out of her window, endeavouring to get down. Mr. Diaper and one Mr. Clarke entered the house, and searched diligently; but could find no traces of any person having quitted the house, as there was a dew on the grass, which did not appear to be disturbed.

Swan went to fetch Mr. Forbes, a surgeon at Woodford, who observed congealed blood in the room, and examined the wounds, which, on the trial, he declared to have been mortal. Swan appeared much frightened at the time; and said he wished that he had died with his master; for that he would have lost his own life to save his.

As there appeared no marks of any person having been in the house, but those belonging to the family, violent suspicions began to arise. Mr. Jeffries died in great agonies, at eight o'clock on the following evening.

Miss Jeffries, being taken into custody on suspicion, was examined by two magistrates, to whom she confessed that she heard the report of a pistol, and found her uncle murdered. No evidence arising to criminate her, she proved her uncle's will at Doctor's Commons, and took possession of his estate: but the coroner's inquest having sat on the body, and some circumstances of suspicion arising, she and Swan were committed to prison; and bills of indictment being found against them, they were put to the bar, and their council moved for an immediate trial.

This was opposed by the council for the prosecution, on account of the absence of Matthews, who, it was presumed, would become a material evidence. The council on both sides used all the arguments in their power; but the trial was deferred till the following assizes.



In the interim Mr. Gall, of the public-house in Whitechapel, resolved, if possible, to take Matthews into custody; and conversing with one Mr. Smith, he told him that he had seen Matthews come out of the India-house; and on enquiry, it was found that he had engaged to enter into the service of the East-India Company, and was at a house in Abel's-buildings, Rosemary-lane.

Being taken into custody on a warrant, he was admitted an evidence for the crown, and the trial of Swan and Jeffries came on at Chelmsford on the 11th of March, 1752, before judge Wright.

Miss Jeffries fainted repeatedly during the trial, and was once in fits for the space of half an hour. The evidence of Matthews was exceedingly clear; and many corroborative circumstances arising, the jury found the culprits guilty, and they received sentence of death.

After conviction, Miss Jeffries acknowledged the justice of her sentence; said she had deliberated on the murder for two years past, but could find no opportunity of getting it executed, till she engaged Swan in the business, and they jointly offered Matthews money to perpetrate it. She likewise confessed a variety of circumstances, which tended to prove that Swan was her real agent in the commission of the murder.

Swan for some time expressed great resentment on Miss Jeffries's confession; but, when he learnt that he was to be hung in chains, he began to relent, and seemed at length to behold his crime in its true light of enormity.

On the day of execution they left the prison at four in the morning, Miss Jeffries being placed in a cart, and Swan in a sledge. The unhappy woman had frequent fits during the journey; but, before



fore she came to the place of execution her spirits became more composed.

Swan appeared to be a real penitent, and joined with the utmost earnestness in the prayers of the clergyman who attended them. Miss Jeffries told the clergyman, that she had been seduced by her uncle while his wife was living, and that he had given her medicines to procure abortion, at two different times ; but, for the truth of this, we have no evidence but her own declaration. She fainted away just before she was tied up, nor had recovered when the cart drew away.

They were executed near the six mile stone, on Epping-forest, on the 28th of March, 1752 ; and the body of Miss Jeffries having been delivered to her friends for interment, the gibbet was removed to another part of the forest, where Swan was hung in chains.

This murder, so unprovoked in its nature, so dreadful in its example, is sufficient to make one shudder with horror. A niece to murder her uncle, a servant his master, to whom both of them were under obligations, the one for protection, the other for employment, has something in it dreadfully abhorrent to the feelings of humanity !

Sure it cannot be necessary to urge a word of caution to our readers against the commission of so enormous a crime : but, as the human heart is " corrupt above all things, and desperately wicked," we cannot be too much on our guard against its temptations ; nor pray too fervently that we may be kept in the right path ; the path that assuredly produces satisfaction in this life, and affords the fairest prospect of eternal felicity !

Account of Miss MARY BLANDY, who was executed at *Oxford*, for the *Murder* of her *Father*; with some Particulars respecting CAPTAIN CRANSTOUN.

MARY Blandy was the only daughter of Mr. Francis Blandy, an eminent attorney at Henley upon Thames, and town-clerk of that place. She had been educated with the utmost tenderness, and every possible care was taken to impress her mind with sentiments of virtue and religion. Her person had nothing in it remarkably engaging; but she was of a sprightly and affable disposition, polite in manners, and engaging in conversation; and was uncommonly distinguished by her good sense.

She had read the best authors in the English language, and had a memory remarkably retentive of the knowledge she had acquired. In a word, she excelled most of her sex in those accomplishments which are calculated to grace and dignify the female mind.

The father being reputed to be rich, a number of young gentlemen courted his acquaintance, with a view to make an interest with his daughter: but of all the visitors none were more agreeable, both to father and daughter, than the gentlemen of the army; and the former was never better pleased than when he had some of them at his table.

Miss Blandy was about twenty-six years of age, when she became acquainted with captain William Henry Cranstoun, who was then about forty-six. He was the son of lord Cranstoun, of an ancient Scotch family, which had made great alliances, by intermarriages with the nobility of Scotland.

Being

Being a younger brother, his uncle lord Mark Ker procured him a commission in the army, which, with the interest of £. 1500 was all he had for his support.

Cranstoun married a Miss Murray in Scotland in the year 1745, and received a handsome fortune with her: but he was defective in the great article of prudence. His wife was delivered of a son within a year after the marriage; and about this period he received orders to join his regiment in England, and was sent on a recruiting party to Henley, which gave rise to the unhappy connexion which ended so fatally.

It may seem extraordinary, and is, perhaps, a proof of Cranstoun's art, that he could ingratiate himself into the affections of Miss Blandy; for his person was diminutive: he was so marked with the small-pox, that his face was in seams, and he squinted very much: but he possessed that faculty of small talk, which is but too prevalent with many of the fair sex.

Mr. Blandy, who was acquainted with lord Mark Ker, was fond of being deemed a man of taste, and so open to flattery, that it is not to be wondered at that a man of Cranstoun's artifice ingratiated himself into his favour, and obtained permission to pay his addresses to the daughter.

Cranstoun, apprehending that Miss Blandy might discover that he had a wife in Scotland, informed her that he was involved in a disagreeable law-suit in that country, with a young lady who claimed him as a husband; and so sure was he of the interest he had obtained in Miss Blandy's affections, that he had the confidence to ask her if she loved him well enough to wait the issue of the affair. She told him, that if her father and mother approved of her staying for him, she had no objection.

This must be allowed to have been a very extraordinary declaration of love, and as extraordinary a reply.

Cranstoun endeavoured to conduct the amour with all possible secrecy ; notwithstanding which, it came to the knowledge of lord Mark Ker, who wrote to Mr. Blandy, informing him that the captain had a wife and children in Scotland, and conjuring him to preserve his daughter from ruin.

Alarmed by this intelligence, Mr. Blandy informed his daughter of it ; but she did not seem equally affected, as Cranstoun's former declaration had prepared her to expect some such news ; and when the old gentleman taxed Cranstoun with it, he declared it was only an affair of gallantry, of which he should have no difficulty to free himself.

Mrs. Blandy appears to have been under as great a degree of infatuation as her daughter ; for she forbore all farther enquiry, on the captain's bare assurance that the report of his marriage was false. Cranstoun, however, could not be equally easy. He saw the necessity of devising some scheme to get his first marriage annulled, or of bidding adieu to all the gratifications he could promise himself by a second.

After revolving various schemes in his mind, he at length wrote to his wife, requesting her to disown him for a husband. The substance of this letter was, that, " having no other way of rising  
" to preferment but in the army, he had but little  
" ground to expect advancement there, while it  
" was known he was incumbered with a wife and  
" family ; but could he once pass for a single man,  
" he had not the least doubt of being quickly preferred : which would procure him a sufficiency  
" to maintain her, as well as himself, in a genteeler  
" manner



“ manner than now he was able to do. All there-  
“ fore (adds he) I have to request of you, is, that  
“ you will transcribe the inclosed copy of a letter,  
“ wherein you disown me for a husband; put your  
“ maiden name to it, and send it by the post: all  
“ the use I shall make of it will be to procure my  
“ advancement, which will necessarily include your  
“ own benefit. In full assurance that you will  
“ comply with my request, I remain

“ Your most affectionate Husband,  
W. H. CRANSTOUN.”

Mrs. Cranstoun, ill as she had been treated by her husband, and little hope as she had of more generous usage, was, after repeated letters had passed, induced to give up her claim, and at length sent him the requested paper, signed Murray, which was her maiden name.

The villainous captain, being possessed of this letter, made some copies of it, which he sent to his wife's relations, and his own: the consequence of which was that they withdrew the assistance that they had afforded the lady, which reduced her to an extremity she had never before known.

Exclusive of this, he instituted a suit before the lords of session, for the dissolution of the marriage; but when Mrs. Cranstoun was heard, and the letters read, the artful contrivance was seen through, the marriage was confirmed, and Cranstoun was adjudged to pay the expences of the trial.

At the next sessions captain Cranstoun preferred a petition, desiring to be heard by council, on new evidence which it was pretended had arisen respecting Miss Murray. This petition, after some hesitation, was heard; but the issue was, that the marriage was again confirmed, and Cranstoun was obliged to allow his wife a separate maintenance.

Still,

Still, however, he paid his addressee to Miss Blandy with the same fervency as before; which coming to the knowledge of Mrs. Cranstoun, she sent her the decree of the court of session, establishing the validity of the marriage.

It is reasonable to suppose, that this would have convinced Miss Blandy of the erroneous path in which she was treading. On this occasion she consulted her mother; and Cranstoun having set out for Scotland, the old lady advised her to write to him, to know the truth of the affair.

Absurd as this advice was, she wrote to him; but, soon after the receipt of her letter, he returned to Henley, when he had impudence enough to assert that the cause was not finally determined, but would be referred to the house of Lords.

Mr. Blandy gave very little credit to this assertion; but his wife assented at once to all he said, and treated him with as much tenderness as if he had been her own child; of which the following circumstance will afford ample proof.

Mrs. Blandy and her daughter being on a visit to Mrs. Pocock of Turville-court, the old lady was taken so ill as to be obliged to continue there for some days. In the height of her disorder, which was a violent fever, she cried, "Let Cranstoun be sent for." He was then with the regiment at Southampton; but, her request being complied with, she no sooner saw him, than she raised herself on the pillow, and hung round his neck, repeatedly exclaiming, "My dear Cranstoun, I am glad you are come; I shall now grow well soon." So extravagant was her fondness, that she insisted on having him as her nurse; and he actually administered her medicines.

On the following day she grew better; on which she said, "This I owe to you, my dear Cranstoun;  
" your

“ your coming has given me new health and fresh  
“ spirits. I was fearful I should die, and you not  
“ here to comfort that poor girl. How like death  
“ she looks!”

It would be ungenerous to the memory of Mrs. Blandy to suppose that she saw Cranstoun's guilt in its true light of enormity; but certainly she was a most egregious dupe to his artifices.

Mrs. Blandy and her daughter having come to London, the former wanted £. 40 to discharge a debt she had contracted unknown to her husband; and Cranstoun coming into the room while the mother and the daughter were weeping over their distresses, he demanded the reason of their grief; of which being informed, he left them, and soon returning with the requisite sum, he threw it into the old lady's lap. Charmed by this apparent generosity, she burst into tears, and squeezed his hand fervently: on which he embraced her, and said, “ Remember, it is a son; therefore do not  
“ make yourself uneasy: you do not lay under any  
“ obligation to me.”

Of this debt of forty pounds, ten pounds had been contracted by the ladies while in London, for expences in consequence of their pleasures; and the other thirty by expensive treats given to Cranstoun at Henley, during Mr. Blandy's absence.

Soon after this Mrs. Blandy died; and Cranstoun now complaining of his fear of being arrested for the forty pounds, the young lady borrowed that sum, which she gave him; and made him a present of her watch; so that he was a gainer by his former apparent generosity.

Mr. Blandy began now to shew evident dislike of captain Cranstoun's visits: but he found means to take leave of the daughter, to whom he complained of the father's ill treatment; but insinuated  
that

that he had a method of conciliating his esteem; and that when he arrived in Scotland he would send her some powders proper for the purpose; on which, to prevent suspicion, he would write "Powders to clean the Scotch pebbles."

It does not appear that the young lady had any idea that the powders he was to send her were of a poisonous nature. She seems rather to have been infatuated by her love; and this is the only excuse that can be made for her subsequent conduct, which appears otherwise totally inconsistent with that good sense for which she was celebrated.

Cranstoun sent her the powders, according to promise; and Mr. Blandy being indisposed on the Sunday se'nnight before his death, Susan Gunnell, a maid servant, made him some water-guel, into which Miss Blandy conveyed some of the powder, and gave it to her father; and repeating this draught on the following day, he was tormented with the most violent pains in his bowels.

When the old gentleman's disorder increased, and he was attended by a physician, his daughter came into his room, and falling on her knees to her father, said, "Banish me where you please; do with me what you please, so you do but forgive me; and as for Cranstoun, I will never see him, speak to him, or write to him, as long as I live, if you will but forgive me."

In reply to this, the father said, "I forgive thee, my dear, and I hope God will forgive; but thou shouldst have considered before thou attemptedst any thing against thy father: thou shouldst have considered I was thy *own* father."

Miss Blandy now acknowledged that she had put powder in his gruel, but that it was for an innocent purpose: on which the father, turning in his bed,



bed, said, " O such a villain ! to come to my  
 " house, eat of the best, and drink of the best  
 " my house could afford ; and in return take away  
 " my life, and ruin my daughter. O ! my dear,  
 " thou must hate that man."

The young lady replied, " Sir, every word you  
 " say is like a sword piercing to my heart ; more  
 " severe than if you were angry : I must kneel,  
 " and beg you will not curse me." The father  
 " said, I curse thee, my dear ! how couldst thou  
 " think I would curse thee ? No, I bless thee, and  
 " hope God will bless thee, and amend thy life.  
 " Do, my dear, go out of the room ; say no more,  
 " lest thou shouldst say any thing to thy own pre-  
 " judice. Go to thy uncle Stephens ; and take  
 " him for thy friend : poor man ! I am sorry for  
 " him."

Mr. Blandy dying in consequence of his illness,  
 it was suspected that his daughter had occasioned  
 his death ; whereupon she was taken into custody,  
 and committed to the gaol at Oxford.

She was tried on the 3d of March, 1752, before  
 Mr. Baron Legge ; and after many witnesses had  
 been called to give evidence of her guilt, she was  
 desired to make her defence, which she did in the  
 following speech :

" My Lord,

" It is morally impossible for me to lay down  
 " the hardships I have received—I have been as-  
 " persed in my character. In the first place, it  
 " has been said I spoke ill of my father ; that I  
 " have cursed him, and wished him at hell ; which  
 " is extremely false. Sometimes little family affairs  
 " have happened, and he did not speak to me so  
 " kind as I could wish. I own I am passionate,  
 " my lord ; and in those passions some hasty ex-  
 " VOL. IV. No. 31. C pressions

“ preffions might have dropped : but great care  
 “ has been taken to recollect every word I have  
 “ spoken at different times, and to apply them  
 “ to such particular purposes as my enemies knew  
 “ would do me the greatest injury. These are  
 “ hardships, my lord, such as yourself must allow  
 “ to be so. It was said too, my lord, that I en-  
 “ deavoured to make my escape. Your lordship  
 “ will judge from the difficulties I laboured under :  
 “ I had lost my father ;—I was accused of being  
 “ his murderer ;—I was not permitted to go near  
 “ him ;—I was forsaken by my friends—affronted  
 “ by the mob — and insulted by my servants.—  
 “ Although I begged to have the liberty to listen  
 “ at the door where he died, I was not allowed it.  
 “ My keys were taken from me ; my shoe-buckles  
 “ and garters too—to prevent me from making  
 “ away with myself, as though I was the most  
 “ abandoned creature. What could I do, my  
 “ lord ? I verily believe I must have been out of  
 “ my senses. When I heard my father was dead,  
 “ I ran out of the house, and over the bridge,  
 “ and had nothing on but an half sack and petti-  
 “ coats, without a hoop—my petticoats hanging  
 “ about me ;—the mob gathered about me. Was  
 “ this a condition, my lord, to make my escape  
 “ in ? A good woman beyond the bridge, seeing  
 “ me in this distress, desired me to walk in, till  
 “ the mob was dispersed : the town serjeant was  
 “ there ; I begged he would take me under his  
 “ protection, to have me home : the woman said  
 “ it was not proper, the mob was very great, and  
 “ that I had better stay a little. When I came  
 “ home, they said I used the constable ill. I was  
 “ locked up for fifteen hours, with only an old  
 “ servant of the family to attend me. I was not  
 “ allowed

“ allowed a maid for the common decencies of  
 “ my sex. I was sent to gaol, and was in hopes  
 “ there at least this usage would have ended ;  
 “ but was told, it was reported I was frequently  
 “ drunk ; that I attempted to make my escape ;  
 “ that I did not attend at chapel. A more  
 “ abstemious woman, my lord, I believe, does  
 “ not live.

“ Upon the report of my making my escape,  
 “ the gentleman who was high sheriff last year  
 “ (not the present) came and told me, by order of  
 “ the higher powers, he must put an iron on me.  
 “ I submitted, as I always do, to the higher  
 “ powers. Some time after he came again, and said  
 “ he must put an heavier upon me ; which I have  
 “ worn, my lord, till I came hither. I asked the  
 “ sheriff, why I was so ironed ? He said, he did  
 “ it by the command of some noble peer, on his  
 “ hearing that I intended making my escape. I  
 “ told them I never had any such thought, and I  
 “ would bear it with the other cruel usage I had  
 “ received on my character. The Reverend Mr.  
 “ Swinton, the worthy clergyman who attended  
 “ me in prison, can testify I was regular at the  
 “ chapel, whenever I was well ; sometimes I really  
 “ was not able to come out, and then he attended  
 “ me in my room. They have likewise published  
 “ papers and depositions, which ought not to have  
 “ been published, in order to represent me as the  
 “ most abandoned of my sex, and to prejudice  
 “ the world against me. I submit myself to your  
 “ lordships, and to the worthy jury.—I do assure  
 “ your lordship, as I am to answer it at the great  
 “ tribunal, where I must appear, I am as innocent  
 “ as the child unborn of the death of my father.  
 “ I would not endeavour to save my life, at the

“ expence of truth. I really thought the powder  
 “ an innocent, inoffensive thing ; and I gave it to  
 “ procure his love (meaning towards Cranstoun).  
 “ It has been mentioned, I should say I was  
 “ ruined. My lord, when a young woman loses  
 “ her character, is not that her ruin ? Why then  
 “ should this expression be construed in so wide a  
 “ sense ? Is it not ruining my character to have  
 “ such a thing laid to my charge ? And, whatever  
 “ may be the event of this trial, I am ruined most  
 “ effectually.”

The trial lasted eleven hours, and then the judge  
 summed up the evidence, mentioning the scandal-  
 ous behaviour of some people respecting the pri-  
 soner, in printing and publishing what they called  
 depositions taken before the coroner, relating to  
 the affair before them : to which he added, “ I hope  
 “ you have not seen them ; but if you have, I  
 “ must tell you, as you are men of sense and pro-  
 “ bity, that you must divest yourselves of every  
 “ prejudice that can arise from thence, and attend  
 “ merely to the evidence that has been now given.”

The judge then summed up the evidence with  
 the utmost candour ; and the jury, having con-  
 sidered the affair, found her guilty without going  
 out of court.

After conviction, she behaved with the utmost  
 decency and resignation. She was attended by  
 the Reverend Mr. Swinton, from whose hands she  
 received the sacrament on the day before her exe-  
 cution, declaring that she did not know there was  
 any thing hurtful in the powders she had given  
 her father.

The night before her death she spent in devo-  
 tion ; and at nine in the morning she left her  
 apartment, being dressed in a black bombazine,  
 and having her arms bound with black ribbons.

The







MISS BLANDY at the place of Execution near  
Oxford, attended by the Rev. H. Swinton.

The clergyman attended her to the place of execution, to which she walked with the utmost solemnity of deportment; and, when there, acknowledged her fault in administering the powders to her father, but declared that, as she must soon appear before the most awful tribunal, she had no idea of doing injury, nor any suspicions that the powders were of a poisonous nature.

Having ascended some steps of the ladder, she said, "Gentlemen, don't hang me high, for the sake of decency." Being desired to go something higher, she turned about, and expressed her apprehensions that she should fall. The rope being put round her neck, she pulled her handkerchief over her face, and was turned off on holding out a book of devotions which she had been reading.

The crowd of spectators assembled on this occasion was immense; and, when she had hung the usual time, she was cut down, and the body being put into a hearse, was conveyed to Henley, and interred with her parents, at one o'clock on the following morning.

She was executed at Oxford, on the 6th of April, 1752.

It will be now proper to return to Cranston, who was the original contriver of this horrid murder. Having heard of Miss Blandy's commitment to Oxford gaol, he concealed himself some time in Scotland, and then escaped to Bologne in France. Meeting there with Mrs. Ross, who was distantly related to his family, he acquainted her with his situation, and begged her protection: on which she advised him to change his name for her maiden name of Dunbar.

Some officers in the French service, who were related to his wife, hearing of his concealment, vowed



vowed revenge if they should meet with him, for his cruelty to the unhappy woman: on which he fled to Paris, whence he went to Furnes, a town in Flanders, where Mrs. Ross had provided a lodging for his reception.

He had not been long at Furnes, when he was seized with a severe fit of illness, which brought him to a degree of reflection to which he had been long a stranger. At length, he sent for a father belonging to an adjacent convent, and received absolution from his hands, on declaring himself a convert to the Romish faith.

Cranstoun died on the 30th of November 1752, and the fraternity of monks and friars looked on his conversion as an object of such importance, that solemn mass was sung on the occasion, and the body was followed to the grave, not only by the Ecclesiastics, but by the magistrates of the town.

His papers were then sent to Scotland, to his brother, lord Cranstoun: his cloaths were sold for the discharge of his debts; and his wife came into possession of the interest of the fifteen hundred pounds above mentioned.

This case is one of the most extraordinary that we shall have occasion to record in these volumes. The character and conduct of Cranstoun are infamous beyond all description. A married man seeking a young lady in marriage, deluding her by the vilest artifices, and the most atrocious falsehoods; and then murdering her father to obtain the object of his wishes, exhibits an accumulated picture of guilt to which no language can do justice. His sufferings afterwards appear to have been a providential punishment of his crimes. We are to hope that his penitence was sincere; but it is impossible



to think highly of a religion that offers immediate pardon and absolution to a criminal, of whatever magnitude, on the single declaration of his becoming a convert to that religion.

With regard to Miss Blandy, the public have ever been divided in opinion on her case. Those who have presumed on her innocence, have tacitly acknowledged that she was very weak, which contradicts the accounts we have of her genius and mental acquirements. On the contrary, those who have insisted on her guilt, have made no allowances for the weakness of the female mind; nor considered the influence of an artful man over the heart of a girl in love.

Her solemn declaration of her innocence would almost tempt one to think that she *was* innocent; for it is next to impossible to suppose that a woman of her sense and education would depart this life with a wilful lye in her mouth.

Be all this as it may, an obvious lesson is to be learnt from her fate.—Young ladies should be cautious of listening to the insidious address of artful love, as they know not how soon, and how unsuspectedly, their hearts may be engaged to their own destruction, founded on the violation of all their nobler duties.



Account of THOMAS WILFORD, who was  
hanged at Tyburn, for *Murder*.

THOMAS Wilford was the son of a poor man who belonged to the parish of Fulham, and the boy, being born with one arm, was placed in

in the workhouse, where he was employed in going of errands for the paupers, and occasionally for the inhabitants of the town; and he was distinguished by his inoffensive behaviour.

A girl of ill-fame, named Sarah Williams, being passed from the parish of St. Giles in the Fields to the same workhouse, had art enough to persuade Wilford to marry her, though he was then only seventeen years of age; and their inclinations being made known to the churchwardens, they gave the intended bride forty shillings, to enable her to begin the world.

The young couple now went to the Fleet, and were married: after which they took lodgings in St. Giles's; and it was only on the Sunday succeeding the marriage that the murder was perpetrated. On that day, the wife having been out with an old acquaintance, staid 'till midnight; and on her return Wilford, who was jealous of her conduct, asked her where she had been. She said to the Park, and would give him no other answer; a circumstance that enflamed him to such a degree, that a violent quarrel ensued; the consequence of which was fatal to the wife; for Wilford's passions were so irritated, that he seized a knife, and she advancing towards him, he threw her down, and kneeling on her, cut her throat, so that her head was almost severed from the body.

He had no sooner committed the horrid deed, than he threw down the knife, opened the chamber door, and was going down stairs, when a woman, who lodged in an adjacent room, asked who was there; to which Wilford replied, "It is me, I have murdered my poor wife, whom I loved as dearly as my own life."

On

On this the woman went down to the landlord of the house, and was immediately followed by Wilford, who said he had killed the woman that he loved beyond all the world, and was willing to die for the crime he had committed: and he did not make the slightest effort to escape.

On this the landlord called the watch, who, taking Wilford into custody, confined him for that night, and on the following day he was committed to Newgate by justice Fielding.

Being arraigned on the first day of the following sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty; but, the court refusing to record his plea, he was put by till the last day, when he again pleaded guilty, but was prevailed on to put himself on his trial.\*

Accordingly the trial came on; during which the prisoner did not seek to extenuate the crime of which he had been guilty: on the contrary, his penitent behaviour and flowing tears seemed to testify the sense he entertained of his offence. Every person present seemed penetrated with grief for his misfortunes.

The case of this malefactor has been the rather inserted, because he was the first that suffered in consequence of an act that passed in the year 1751, for the more effectual prevention of murder, which decrees that the convict shall be executed on the second day after conviction: for which reason it has been customary to try persons charged with murder on a Friday; by which indulgence, in case of conviction, the execution of the sentence is ne-

VOL. IV. No. 32.

D

cessarily

---

\* Much praise is due to the humanity of the judges, who frequently prevail on a prisoner to retract his first plea of guilty; which very prisoner has been acquitted on his second arraignment.

cessarily postponed till Monday: and by the same act it is ordained, that the convicted murderer shall be either hung in chains or anatomized.

The jury having found Wilford guilty, sentence against him was pronounced in the following terms:  
 “ Thomas Wilford, you stand convicted of the  
 “ horrid and unnatural crime of murdering Sarah  
 “ your wife. This court doth adjudge, that you  
 “ be taken back to the place from whence you  
 “ came, and there to be fed on bread and water  
 “ till Wednesday next, when you are to be taken  
 “ to the common place of execution, and there  
 “ hanged by the neck until you are dead; after  
 “ which your body is to be publicly dissected and  
 “ anatomized, agreeable to an act of parliament  
 “ in that case made and provided: and may God  
 “ Almighty have mercy on your soul!”

Both before and after conviction, Wilford behaved as a real penitent, and at the place of execution he exhibited the most genuine signs of contrition for the crime of which he had been guilty.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 23d of June, 1752, and died more lamented than almost any murderer has ever done at the fatal tree.

It is almost impossible to dismiss this article without remarking on that narrowness of conduct in parish officers, which tempts them to get rid of the poor on any terms which they deem least burdensome to the parish.

If the officers of Fulham had not been so ready to give the paltry gratification as a marriage portion, it is probable this murder would never have happened. The richer people in a parish should consider themselves as guardians of the poor, whom it is their duty to protect, if it were only for their own sake: for “ he that giveth to the poor, lendeth to the Lord.”

Account



---

Account of ANNE WHALE, who was burnt for *Petit-Treason*; and of SARAH PLEDGE, who was hanged for *Murder*.

HORSHAM in Suffex gave birth to Anne Whale, who was reputably descended; but her father dying during her infancy, she was left to the care of her mother. Early in life she gave evidence of an uncontrollable disposition; and having a dispute with her mother, she wandered into the country, and associated with people of bad character: but her mother, in order to save her from ruin, at length prevailed on her to return home.

Soon after this, she was addressed by a sober young man, named James Whale; and as a relation had lately left her a legacy of eighty pounds, payable when she should be of age, and the mother readily consenting to their alliance, the marriage took place.

They had not been long wedded, when they went to reside at a place called Steepwood; but soon returning to Horsham, they took up their residence in the house of Sarah Pledge, who was distantly related to Mrs. Whale.

A short time after their abode here, a misunderstanding happening between the women, Mr. Whale forbade Mrs. Pledge to come into his apartment; a circumstance that only tended to foment the quarrel.

Soon afterwards, however, the women were privately reconciled; and as the man was remarkably sober, and they were of opposite characters, it is the less to be wondered at that they sought the means of his destruction.

Mrs. Whale having lain-in, and being tolerably recovered, Mrs. Pledge took the advantage of her husband's absence to come into her room, when she said, "Nan, let us get rid of this devil!" (meaning Mr. Whale.) The wife said, "How can we do it?" To which the other replied, "Let us give him a dose of poison." The abandoned woman too readily consented to this horrid proposal; and the only difficulty which appeared to arise was, how the poison should be procured.

Mrs. Pledge undertook to purchase the fatal dose, for which purpose she went to several market towns; but happening to know some person in each shop she went to, her fears would not let her execute her errand. After this, she went to the shop of an apothecary at Horsham; but was still afraid to make the purchase. At length, however, she bought a penny-worth of arsenick, which Mrs. Whale administered to her husband in some water-gruel.

Mr. Whale soon felt the dreadful effects of the poison, which operating till the following day, he then expired: but the neighbours suspecting that his death was occasioned by some sinister arts, a surgeon examined the body, and the coroner's jury being summoned, brought in a verdict of "Wilful Murder."

Hereupon Mrs. Whale and Mrs. Pledge being taken into custody, and carried before a magistrate, the latter wished to become evidence; but being separately examined, and both confessing the fact, they were committed to Horsham gaol.

On their trials, the confessions which they had signed were read, and some corroborative evidence arising, they were convicted, and received sentence of death.

For

For some time after conviction, Mrs. Pledge behaved in the most hardened manner, making use of profane expressions, and declaring that she would fight with the hangman at the place of execution. On the contrary, Mrs. Whale acknowledged the justice of the sentence which had condemned her, and gave evident signs of her being a real penitent.

On the evening preceding their execution, the clergyman who attended them brought Mrs. Pledge into a better frame of mind, and then administered the sacrament to both the convicts. An immense croud attended at the place of execution, where Pledge was hanged; and Whale, being tied to a stake, was first strangled, and then burnt to ashes, in the 21st year of her age.

These malefactors suffered at Horsham, on the 14th of August; 1752.

These women were the first who were executed in the country after the new act for the more effectual punishment of murderers; as Wilford (mentioned in the preceding article) was the first convict in London.

It is almost needless to make any remarks on this case: those, who can wilfully imbrue their hands in the blood of their fellow-creatures, must be too hardened to be impressed with any sentiment of humanity, and totally lost to all the superior obligations of religion.\*

Account

---

\* On this occasion it may not be improper to mention a most valuable and important work, for which the public is indebted to the studious labours of the learned and ingenious Dr. William Hurd. This work, which is called "A new  
" UNIVERSAL HISTORY of the Religious RITES, CERE-  
" MONIES, and CUSTOMS, of the WHOLE WORLD," is now publishing in weekly numbers, for the accommodation of those who may not chuse to purchase the whole at once;

---

Account of Capt. PETER DE LA FONTAINE,  
who was convicted of *Forgery*, and afterwards  
*Transported*.

THIS person, a Frenchman by birth, and nobly descended, received a military education, and served at the siege of Phillipsburgh under the duke of Berwick. The campaign being ended, he went to Paris, where a gentleman invited him to spend some time at his country-seat, when he fell in love with his daughter, who wished to marry him; but the father interposing, she eloped with her lover, and they lived a considerable time as married people at Rouen.

On their return to Paris, the young lady lodged in a convent; but de la Fontaine appearing in public, some officers of justice, seeing him in a  
coffee-

---

once; or the whole complete in sixty numbers, price £.1 : 10s. It comprises the present state of religion among the Jews, Egyptians, Carthaginians, Druids, Bramins, Assyrians, Babylonians, Medes, Persians, Japanese, Africans, Mahometans, Greeks, and Christians: with the various orders of the Romish church; and comprehends, likewise, a particular history of the churches of England and Scotland, including every branch of Dissenters, from the Presbyterians and Quakers to the Sandimanian and Antinomian: so that it must prove a work of the most general use and entertainment, descriptive of the religious customs of all sects, without offending any. This work is embellished with a most elegant set of copper-plate prints, after the drawings of the first masters, and engraved by *Walker, Collyer, Taylor*, and other artists of the highest reputation. It would be superfluous, and even affrontive, to these men of real excellence in their profession, to say that the plates alone will be worth more than the purchase of the whole book; and Dr. Hurd's literary abilities are too great to have needed that any work of his should be embellished with even a single print.



coffee-house, told him they had the king's warrant for apprehending him : on which he wounded two of them with his sword ; notwithstanding which, he was seized and lodged in prison.

On this he wrote to the young lady, telling her he was obliged to go into the country on urgent business, but would soon return ; and, having made an interest with the daughter of the keeper of the prison, she let him out occasionally to visit his mistress.

Being brought to trial for running away with an heiress, he would have been capitally convicted, agreeable to the laws of France, but that the young lady voluntarily swore that she went off with him by her own consent. But, soon after his acquittal, she was seized with the pains of labour, and died in child-bed.

Soon afterwards de la Fontaine went again into the army, and behaved so bravely at the battle near Kale, that the duke of Berwick rewarded his courage with the commission of lieutenant of grenadiers.

A young lady of Stratzburgh, who had fallen in love with de la Fontaine at Paris, before his former connexion, now obtained a pass from the marshal de Belleisle, and being introduced to the duke of Berwick, told him she wished to see de la Fontaine ; and the duke, judging of the cause, ordered her to be conducted to him.

On the following day she went to the duke, dressed in men's cloaths ; and begging to enter as a volunteer in the same regiment with de la Fontaine, she was indulged for the novelty of the humour. She went through the regular duties of a soldier, and reposed in the same tent with her paramour : but in the winter following the campaign she died  
of

of the small-pox, leaving a part of her fortune to her lover.

The duke of Berwick being killed at the siege of Phillipsburgh, de la Fontaine made the tour of Europe; but returning to Paris, he fought a duel with an officer, who being dangerously wounded, our hero repaired to Brest, and embarked as lieutenant of marines on board a vessel bound for Martinico.

The ship being taken by a Turkish corsair, was carried into Constantinople, where de la Fontaine was confined in a dungeon, and had only bread and water for his sustenance. While in this situation, he was visited by another prisoner, who had more liberty than himself, and who advised him, as the French consul was then absent, to apply to a Scotch nobleman then in the city, who was distinguished for his humane and generous feelings.

De la Fontaine having procured pen, ink, and paper, with a tinder-box to strike a light, (all by the friendship of his fellow-prisoner) sent a letter to the nobleman, who had no sooner read it, than he hurried to the cell, to visit the unfortunate prisoner.

Having promised his interest to procure his enlargement, he went to the grand vizier, and pleaded his cause so effectually, that de la Fontaine was released, and went immediately to thank the vizier, who wished him happy, and presented him with a sum of money.

Hence our adventurer sailed to Amsterdam, where, having a criminal connexion with a lady, who became pregnant, he embarked for the Dutch settlement of Curassoe; but finding the place unhealthy, he obtained the governor's permission to go to Surinam, and continued above five years on that island.

While

While in this place the governor invited him to a ball, where one of the company was a widow lady of rank, of whom he determined, if possible, to make a conquest; nor did he long fail of an opportunity, for, dining with her at the governor's house, they soon became very intimately acquainted.

The consequence of their sociability was a residence as husband and wife; and four children were the fruits of the connexion, three of whom died; but the other, a boy, was educated by the governor of the island.

Other officers having addressed the same lady, de la Fontaine was occasionally involved in difficulties on her account. One of these officers having traduced him in his absence, our hero, on meeting him, bade him draw his sword, but the other refused; on which de la Fontaine struck him with his cane, and cut off one of his ears.

On this our adventurer was seized, and tried by a court-martial, but acquitted; and the officer degraded, on account of the provocation he had given; and from this time de la Fontaine was treated with unusual marks of civility.

He still lived on the best terms with the lady, and their affection appeared to be reciprocal. The governor bestowed on him a considerable tract of land, which he cultivated to great advantage; but the malice of his enemies was so restless, that they prevailed on one of his Negro servants to mix poison in his food.

Unsuspecting of any villany, he swallowed the poison, the consequence of which was, that he languished several months; and the lady, affected by his situation, gave way to melancholy, which

brought on a consumption, that deprived her of life.

After her death, de la Fontaine obtained the governor's permission to return to Europe ; and lived for some time in a splendid manner at Amsterdam ; but at length determined to embark for England.

Having arrived in London, he took elegant lodgings, lived in the style of a gentleman, and made several gay connexions. Among his acquaintance was Zannier, a Venetian, who had been obliged to quit his own country on account of his irregularities. This man possessed such an artful address, that de la Fontaine made him at all times welcome to his table, and admitted him to a considerable share of his confidence.

Zannier soon improved this advantage ; for, contriving a scheme with an attorney and bailiff, he pretended to have been arrested for £. 300, and prevailed on his new friend to bail him, on the assurance that he had a good estate in Ireland, and would pay the money before the return of the writ ; but when the term arrived, our hero was compelled to discharge the debt, as Zannier did not appear.

Hitherto de la Fontaine had been in London without making any connexion with the ladies ; but there being a procession of free-masons at that time, he dressed himself in the most superb taste, and his chariot being the most elegant of any in the procession, he was particularly noticed by the spectators.

Among the rest, the daughter of an alderman had her curiosity so much excited, that she caused enquiry to be made who he was, and on the following day sent him a letter, intimating that she should



should be at a ball at Richmond, where he might have an opportunity of dancing with her.

Our hero did not hesitate to comply; and when the ball was ended he received an invitation to dine with the young lady on the following day, at her father's house. He attended accordingly; but the father having learnt his character, insisted that he should decline his visits; which put an end to all his hopes from that quarter.

The circumstances of our hero being greatly reduced, he resolved, if possible, to repair them by marriage, and was soon afterwards wedded to a widow of considerable fortune: but his taste for extravagance rendered this fortune unequal to his support; nor was his conduct to his wife by any means generous.

Soon after his marriage he was at the lord-mayor's ball, where he made an acquaintance with the wife of a tradesman, which ended in a criminal connexion.

The parties frequently met at taverns and bagnios; and de la Fontaine having written to the lady, appointing her to meet him at a tavern, the letter fell into the hands of her husband, who communicated the contents to her brother; and the letter was sealed up, and delivered according to its address.

The brothers agreed to go to the tavern, where they told the waiter to shew any lady to them who might enquire for de la Fontaine.

In a short time the lady came, and was astonished to be introduced to her brother and husband: but the latter was so affected, that he promised a full remission of all that was past, on her promise of future fidelity. These generous terms she rejected with contempt, and immediately left the room.

De la Fontaine being acquainted with this circumstance, was oppressed with a sense of the husband's generous behaviour, and advised the lady to return to her duty. At first she insulted him for his advice, but at length thought proper to comply with it.

Our hero now saw his own conduct in an unfavourable light; on which he went into the country with his wife for some time, to avoid his old associates, and then returned to London, determined to abandon his former course of life.

Unfortunately, however, he had not long formed this resolution, when Zannier went to him, begging his forgiveness for obliging him to pay the debt. De la Fontaine too easily complied with his request, and once more considered him as a friend.

Zannier and de la Fontaine going to a tavern, met with a woman whom the latter had formerly known, and a man who was dressed in black. While de la Fontaine was conversing with the woman, the stranger (who afterwards appeared to be a Fleet parson) read the marriage ceremony from a book which he held in his hand; and the next week de la Fontaine was apprehended on a charge of bigamy, and committed for trial at the Old Bailey.

The villain Zannier visiting him in Newgate, de la Fontaine was so enraged at his perfidy, that he beat him through the press-yard with a broomstick with such severity that the turnkey was obliged to interpose to prevent murder.

In revenge of this, Zannier swore that de la Fontaine had been guilty of forgery, in imitating the hand-writing of a gentleman named Parry: in consequence of which de la Fontaine was brought to his trial, and capitally convicted; though a gentleman

tleman swore that the writing resembled that of Zannier; and there is too much ground to believe that he was the real forger.

De la Fontaine received sentence of death, and was ordered for execution: but interest being made in his behalf, he was respited; and, after repeated respites for five years, he was transported in September, 1752.

The villany of Zannier, and the consequence of dissipation in the life of de la Fontaine, are the circumstances proper for remark on this occasion. The man who, like the former, could abuse the confidence of a trusting friend, is unworthy of all pity, and deserving only of general detestation.

It is to be lamented, that the forgery could not have been fixed on Zannier, in which case he would probably have met with the due reward of his villany. With regard to de la Fontaine, we see that a life of dissipation ends only in disgrace, if not in absolute destruction. The fate of this man should teach us, that the plain path of virtue and religion can alone be the high-road to happiness.



Account of WILLIAM MONTGOMERY, who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for *Defrauding his Creditors* under an Act of Insolvency.

THIS offender was a native of Elphinstone in Scotland, and educated in the Presbyterian religion; but was remarkable for his incapacity for learning.

His

His father dying when he was about thirteen years old, his mother sent him to sea in a ship belonging to Alloa. Having continued in the naval line of business some years, he at length married, and opened a public-house in Bishopsgate-street; and, dealing largely as a smuggler, he frequently went to Holland, to bring home prohibited goods.

Quitting Bishopsgate-street, he lived some years at the sign of the Highlander, in Shadwell; but, on the death of his wife, he resolved to decline business as a publican; but having saved some money, he entered again into the matrimonial state, and taking a house in Nightingale-lane, he let lodgings to sea-faring men.

Meeting with success, he took a shop as a seller of seamen's cloaths; but left the care of it chiefly to his wife, while he employed his own time in frequent trips to Holland, in pursuit of his former illicit practice of smuggling.

An act of insolvency passing in the year 1748, favourable to such persons as had been in foreign parts fugitives for debt; Montgomery took the benefit of it, swearing that he was at Rotterdam on the last day of the preceding year: in consequence of which he was cleared of his debts, to the injury of his creditors.

No notice was taken of this affair till the expiration of four years, when Montgomery having arrested a neighbour, the man gave notice of his former transactions to one of his creditors, who laying an information before the lord-mayor, Montgomery was lodged in Newgate on suspicion.

Being brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, several persons deposed, that they spent the evening with him at his own house at  
the



the time that he alledged that he was in Holland, in order to take the benefit of the act; so that he was convicted, and received sentence to die.

For some time after conviction he behaved with apparent signs of devotion; but asserted his innocence, and said that the evidences against him were perjured: and in this tale he continued till the arrival of the warrant for his execution.

Being pressed by the divine who attended him to tell the truth, he persisted in the former story till the Friday before his death: but in the afternoon of that day he acknowledged that after having been on board a Dutch vessel, in order to take his passage for Holland, he had come on shore, owing to the contrary winds.

On the following day he insisted that, “as he  
“ had been sworn according to the methods used  
“ in Scotland, without kissing the book, his crime  
“ could not come within the meaning of the act.” In reply to this he was told, that the mode of administering could make no difference in the nature of an oath.

Hereupon he made a full confession of his crime; and owned, that, having come on shore, he concealed himself for some weeks in his own house; then appeared publicly, saying, that he had been at Rotterdam: after which he surrendered to the warden of the Fleet prison, and obtained the benefit of the act of insolvency.

On the Sunday following, when he was pressed to declare the whole truth, he exclaimed, “What  
“ would you have me say? I have told you all  
“ the truth, and I can say no otherwise than I have  
“ done. If I did, I should belie myself, and my  
“ own knowledge.”

This

This malefactor appeared dreadfully shocked on the morning of execution, and wished for that time for repentance, which he now considered as highly necessary. At the place of execution he warned the spectators to beware of covetousness, which had been the cause of his destruction.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 2d of December, 1752.

The villany of men, who defraud their creditors under acts of insolvency, is inexpressibly great. To injure the honest creditor under the sanction of law, by swearing to an absolute falsehood, is such a violation of sacred obligations as one would think no one could be guilty of.

The benevolence of our legislature, to its honour be it recorded, affords frequent opportunities of the unfortunate being cleared from their incumbrances; and the man who will take an ungenerous advantage of this kind consideration in favour of the honest debtor (and intended for him only) is DOUBLY A VILLAIN; as he not only defrauds his own creditor, but renders the door of mercy less likely to be opened to the unfortunate in future.



Account of ALEX. BALFOUR, MASTER of BURLEIGH \*, who was convicted of *Murder*.

HAVING been favoured with a manuscript account of the following extraordinary story, we insert it at the close of the year in which the party

---

\* By the courtesy of Scotland, the son of a Baron is called Master, after his father's title.

party died; as it did not come to hand time enough to take its place in the year that the transaction happened.

Mr. Balfour was born in the year 1687, at the seat of his father, lord Burleigh, near Kinross. He was first sent for education to a village called Orwell, near the place of his birth, and thence to the university of St. Andrews, where he pursued his studies with a diligence and success that greatly distinguished him.

Lord Burleigh had intended to have sent his son into the army in Flanders, under the command of the duke of Marlborough, in which he had rational expectation of his rising to preferment, as he was related to the duke of Argyle and the earl of Stair, who were majors-general in the army; but this scheme unhappily did not take place.

Mr. Balfour, going to his father's house during the vacations at the university, became enamoured of Miss Anne Robertson, who officiated as teacher to his sisters. This young lady was possessed of considerable talents, improved by a fine education: but lord Burleigh being apprized of the connexion between her and his son, she was discharged, and the young gentleman sent to make the tour of France and Italy.

Before he went abroad, he sent the young lady a letter, informing her, that, if she married before his return, he would murder her husband. Notwithstanding this threat, which she might presume had its origin in ungovernable passion, she married Mr. Syme, a schoolmaster, at Innerkeithing, in the county of Fife.

When Balfour returned from his travels, his first business was to enquire for Miss Robertson; and learning that she was married, he proceeded

immediately to Innerkeithing; and when he came to the place, Mrs. Syme was sitting at her window, nursing the first child of her marriage.

Recollecting his former threatenings, she now screamed with terror, and called to her husband to consult his safety. Mr. Syme, unconscious of offence, paid no regard to what she said: but, in the interim, Balfour entered the school-room, and finding the husband, shot him through the heart.

The confusion consequent on this scene favoured his escape: but he was taken into custody, within a few days, at a public-house, in a village four miles from Edinburgh; and, being brought to trial, was sentenced to die, but ordered to be beheaded by the MAIDEN\*, in respect to the nobility of his family.

He was to have suffered on Monday the 7th of May, 1708, and the scaffold was actually erected for the purpose; but, on the preceding day, his sister went to visit him, and being very much like him in face and stature, they changed cloaths, and Mr. Balfour quitted the prison, unsuspected by the keepers.

His friends having provided horses for him, and a servant, at the West-gate of Edinburgh, they rode to a distant village, where he changed his cloaths, and afterwards made his escape out of the kingdom.

Lord Burleigh, the father, died in the reign of queen Anne; but had first obtained a pardon for his son, who succeeded to the family title and honours.

The

\* The reader will see a curious drawing of this machine in the course of this work.



The party of whom we are now writing lived till the year 1752, and then died a sincere penitent for the crime of which he had been guilty, and after frequent cautions to young people to guard against the violence of their passions.

This case is deserving of very serious reflection. A young man of rank murders the husband of a woman, of whom he was passionately fond, because she had married a man more equal to her rank in life, and when she could have no hope of possessing her former lover.

This murder may be ranked among the most unprovoked that we have had occasion to record; and pity it is, for the sake of example, that the malefactor had not suffered the sentence due to the enormity of his crime.

On this occasion it may be asked, what is pride of family, but an assumption of dignity which is not properly our own? The principal subject of this narrative was sent abroad, because he should not marry the girl whom he loved. Had not this event happened, the subsequent misfortunes would not probably have taken place; and where would have been the degradation in the son of a nobleman marrying a young lady of sense, virtue, and education?

There is no vice a more just object of satire than that pride of heart, which influences too many parents to *direct* the choice of their children in the great article of marriage. Love is free in its own nature, and ought to be so in its operations.

When young people of fashion make mean, disreputable connexions, it may be prudent for their parents to interpose, to save them from destruction: but, surely, learning and virtue, youth and innocence, are a match for *mere nobility* at any rate;

and those who affect to think otherwise, do but *disennoble* themselves by the sentiment.



The singular Case of DR. ARCH. CAMERON, who was hanged for *High-Treason*; with a full account of the circumstances that gave rise to his conviction.

IN consequence of the rebellion in 1745, an act of attainder passed, in the following year, for the effectual punishment of persons concerned in that rebellion; and the life of Dr. Cameron was forfeited to the rigour of that act.

The brother of this unfortunate man was the chief of the family of their name in the Highlands, and had obtained the highest degree of reputation by his zealous and effectual endeavours to civilize the manners of his countrymen.

Dr. Cameron, being intended by his father for the profession of the law, was sent to Glasgow; where he continued his studies some years: but, having an attachment to the practice of physic, he entered in the university of Edinburgh; whence he went to Paris, and then compleated his studies at Leyden in Holland.

Though well qualified to have cut a respectable figure in any capital city, yet he chose to reside for life near his native place; and, having returned to the Highlands, he married, and settled in the small town of Lochaber, where, though his practice was small, his generous conduct rendered him the delight and the blessing of the neighbourhood. His wife bore him seven children, and was pregnant of the eighth at the unfortunate period of his death.

While

While Dr. Cameron was living happy in the domestic way, the rebellion broke out, and laid the foundation of the ruin of himself and his family. The pretender having landed, went to the house of Mr. M'Donald, and sent for the doctor's brother, who went to him, and did all in his power to dissuade him from an undertaking from which nothing but ruin could ensue.

Mr. Cameron having previously promised to bring all his clan in aid of the Pretender, the latter upbraided him with an intention of breaking his promise; which so affected the generous spirit of the Highlander, that he immediately went and took leave of his wife, and gave orders for his vassals, to the number of near twelve hundred, to have recourse to arms\*.

This being done, he sent for his brother, to attend him as a physician: but the doctor urged every argument against so rash an undertaking; from which he even besought him on his knees to desist. The brother would not be denied; and the doctor at length agreed to attend him as a physician, though he absolutely refused to accept any commission in the rebel army.

This unhappy gentleman was distinguished by his humanity; and gave the readiest assistance, by night or day, to any wounded men of the royal army, who were made prisoners by the rebels. His brother being wounded in the leg at the battle of Falkirk, he attended him with the kindest assiduity, till himself was likewise slightly wounded.

Dr.

---

\* At this time, Mr. Cameron's estate did not exceed 700 l. per annum. His being able, then, to arm such a number, is a proof of the poverty and the vassalage of the country.

Dr. Cameron exhibited repeated instances of his humanity ; but when the battle of Culloden gave a decisive stroke to the hopes of the rebels, he and his brother escaped to the western islands, whence they sailed to France, in a vessel belonging to that kingdom.

The doctor was appointed physician to a French regiment, of which his brother obtained the command ; but the latter dying at the end of two years, the doctor became physician to Ogilvie's regiment, then in Flanders.

A subscription being set on foot, in England and Scotland, in the year 1750, for the relief of those persons who had been attainted, and escaped into foreign countries ; the doctor came into England to receive the money for his unfortunate fellow-sufferers. At the end of two years another subscription was opened ; when the doctor, whose pay was inadequate to the support of his numerous family, came once more to this country, and having written a number of urgent letters to his friends, it was rumoured that he was returned.

Hereupon a detachment from lord George Beauclerk's regiment was sent in search of him, and he was taken in the following manner. Captain Graves, with thirty soldiers, going towards the place where it was presumed he was concealed, saw a little girl at the extremity of a village, who, on their approach, fled towards another village. She was pursued by a serjeant and two soldiers, who could only come near enough to observe her whispering to a boy, who seemed to have been placed for the purpose of conveying intelligence.

Unable to overtake the boy, they presented their guns at him ; on which he fell on his knees, and begged his life ; which they promised, on the condition



DR. ARCH. CAMERON—for *High-Treason*. 47

dition that he would shew them the place where Dr. Cameron was concealed.

Hereupon the boy pointed to the house where he was, which the soldiers surrounded, and took him prisoner. Being sent to Edinburgh, he was thence conducted to London, and committed to the Tower.

While in this confinement, he was denied the use of pen, ink, and paper, nor suffered to speak to his friends but when the warder was present. On his examination before the lords of the privy council, he denied that he was the same Dr. Cameron whose name had been mentioned in the act of attainder; which made it necessary to procure living evidence to prove his identity.

Being brought to the bar of the court of king's bench on the 17th of May, he was arraigned on the act of attainder, when, declining to give the court any farther trouble, he acknowledged that he was the same person who had been attainted: on which the lord chief justice Lee pronounced sentence in the following terms: "You, Archibald  
"Cameron, of Lochiel, in that part of Great-  
"Britain called Scotland, must be removed from  
"hence to his majesty's prison of the Tower of  
"London, from whence you came, and on Thurs-  
"day, the seventh of June next, your body to be  
"drawn on a sledge to the place of execution;  
"there to be hanged, but not till you are dead;  
"your bowels to be taken out, your body quar-  
"tered, your head cut off, and affixed at the  
"king's disposal; and the Lord have mercy on  
"your soul!"

After his commitment to the Tower, he begged to see his wife, who was then at Lisle in Flanders; and, on her arrival, the meeting between them  
was

was inexpressibly affecting. The unhappy lady wept incessantly, on reflecting on the fate of her husband, herself, and numerous family.

Coming to take her final leave of him on the morning of execution, she was so agitated by her contending passions, that she was attacked by repeated fits, and, a few days after the death of her unfortunate husband, she became totally deprived of her senses.

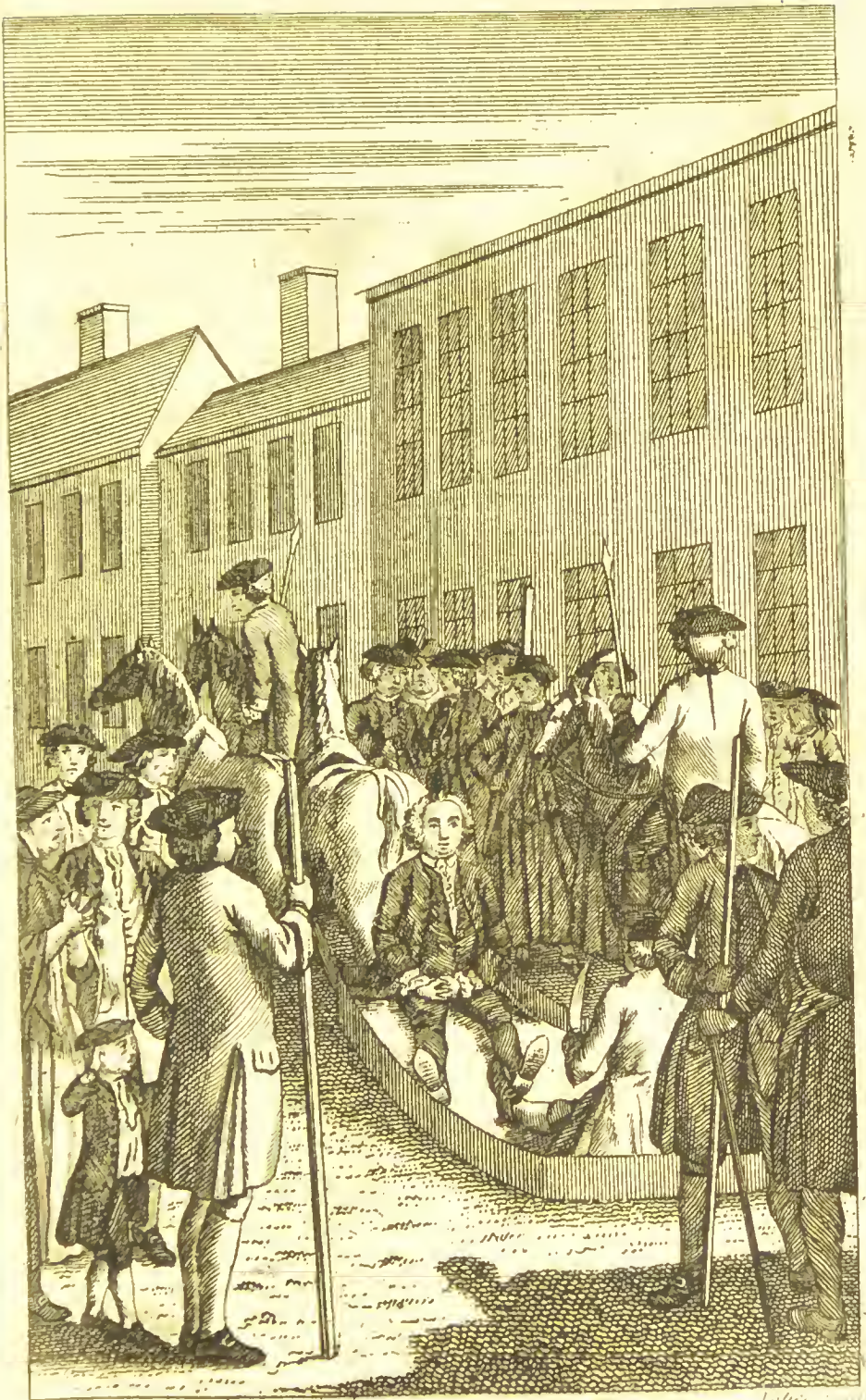
The convict, being brought out of the Tower, was delivered to the sheriffs at ten in the morning; and, being placed in a sledge, was drawn through the streets of London to Tyburn, amidst such an immense number of spectators as have seldom witnessed so melancholy a scene. He was dressed in a bag-wig, and wore a light-coloured coat, with scarlet waistcoat and breeches. He bowed to several people in the windows, as he passed; and there was equal manliness and composure in his behaviour.

The procession reached the fatal tree a little before twelve, when Dr. Cameron begged that his body might be permitted to hang till he was dead; which request was granted.

He looked round him in a manner that testified the calmness of his mind; and said to the clergyman who attended him, "This is a glorious day to me. It is my new birth-day! There are more witnesses at this birth, than were at my first."

The clergyman asking him how he found himself, he said, "Thank God, I am very well; only a little fatigued with my journey; but, blessed be God! I am come to the end of it." This unhappy man then declared, that he should die a member





*Dr. Cameron driven on a Hedge to Tyburn*





member of the church of England, in the faith of which he had been educated.

After the body had hung more than half an hour, it was cut down; and the remaining part of the sentence being carried into execution, the head and body were put into a coffin, and carried to an undertaker's, whence they were conveyed and interred in the chapel of the Savoy.

Dr. Cameron was executed at Tyburn on the 7th of June, 1753, in the 46th year of his age.

Such was the end of an unfortunate man, who appears, from all we have been able to learn of him, to have deserved a better fate. Well educated, humane in disposition, the kind husband, tender father, and affectionate friend; he is almost the last one would have suspected to have come to such an ignominious end; and, indeed, what ought to speak in his praise, his fraternal affection seems to have led to his ruin.

Dr. Cameron was the last person who suffered on account of the rebellion; and of all who were concerned in it, perhaps, he was the least deserving of his calamitous fate: but the ways of Providence are inscrutable; and it is the duty of mortals to adore that divine wisdom which they cannot comprehend—that wisdom, which, being enwrapped in the clouds which surround mortality, will be developed in a future, a more perfect state!



A full and circumstantial Narrative of the Lives, Exploits, and Execution, of CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON, and JOHN STOCKDALE, who suffered at *Tyburn* for *Murder*; with a particular Account of their Behaviour.

JOHNSON was born in Newgate, being the son of one Roger Johnson and his wife, who were prisoners on a charge of a defraud. Soon after they obtained their liberty, the father died; and the mother sent the child to her relations at Derby, who, having given him a tolerable education, apprenticed him to a saddler; but, at the expiration of three years, he ran away, and travelled to London.

On his arrival he went to some of his mother's relations, who persuaded him to return to Derby: but, deaf to their advice, and having imbibed false ideas of gentility, he procured some elegant cloaths, and frequented the gaming-houses, where he soon made the most dangerous connexions, and arrived at the head of his profession.

From the practice of gaming, he took to that of forgery; at which he was remarkably expert in the imitating the hands of other people to notes payable to himself; by which he repeatedly acquired money, but still escaped detection.

His daringness was such, that he sometimes arrested persons on whom he had committed forgeries, and compelled the payment of the money; by having people ready to swear that the handwriting was that of the party whose name was subscribed to the draft.

The

The following is one specimen of his devices. He forged a note on a lady of considerable fortune, and signed her name to it so like her writing, that she almost discredited her own sight when she read it. Johnson arrested her; but, as she knew she had given no such note, she bailed the action, and prepared to stand trial; but the guilty man declined all farther proceedings.

During this abandoned course of life, he became acquainted with the daughter of a man who kept an ale-house in the Strand; and they were privately married at the Fleet, but animosities soon arising between them, they proceeded from words to blows; the consequence of which was, that they parted, and his wife became a common street-walker.

After this Johnson took to picking pockets, and other low practices of defraud; but a miserable poverty still attended him, for what he got dishonestly was soon spent in dissipation. At length he met with Stockdale at Sadler's-wells, and agreed to see him the next evening at a house in Holborn.

STOCKDALE was born at Leicester, where his father was a reputable proctor, who gave him an excellent education, but was too fond of him to keep that strict guard over his conduct which might have been essential to his future welfare. He very soon shewed a disposition to idleness, which was not properly checked by his parents, who would not permit his school-master to chastise him for his faults.

When the father saw his error, he determined, in pursuance of the advice of some friends, to send him to a proctor in Doctors Commons, where he hoped to hear of a speedy reformation in his manners,

Stockdale, however, was of too idle a disposition to brook confinement. His extravagance exceeded the bounds of his father's allowance, and he borrowed of his acquaintance to supply his immediate wants.

In this way he went on, frequenting places of public diversion, till those who had lent him money teased him for a return of it ; and he was at a loss for farther resources, when he met Johnson at Sadler's-wells, as above mentioned.

On the following day, these ill-fated youths met at the appointed place, and made a contract for their mutual destruction. At this time Johnson was under twenty, and Stockdale not eighteen years of age.

The following are given as the words in which Johnson addressed his new acquaintance : “ Stockdale, I am glad that you are a young fellow of spirit ; let me therefore beg that you will divest yourself of all foolish scruples, and behave with bravery, like one who deserves the name of a hero. Why should a few worthless fellows roll in heaps of gold, while such free souls as we are starving for want, and obliged to skulk in corners ? For my part, I know not what right any man, or any set of men, have to engross the products of the earth ; and, as gold comes out of the earth, both you and I have a right to it. This is my opinion, and I am determined to support it with sword and pistol, at the expence of my life. We have nothing to do but enter upon the action, and I have already laid a scheme for our first exploit. There is an old miser, who lives about ten miles off, and has always a great sum of money by him : let you and I pay  
“ him



“ him a visit ; and then I am pretty confident we  
 “ shall not return with empty pockets.”

We give this as the words were said to have been spoken ; but they have more the air of being manufactured by the ordinary of Newgate : for how should any one know what passed between the offenders at their first private meeting, except from the confession of one of them ? and, in that case, the remembering the exact words seems to be wholly improbable.

Be this as it may, Stockdale agreed to accompany Johnson ; and the next day they hired horses, and rode towards Rumford, near which the party lived whom they intended to rob : and, having wasted the time till night, they tied their horses to a hedge, and being armed with pistols, they knocked at the door, which being opened by the old gentleman, Johnson presented a pistol to his breast ; and then they bound him and his two servants, and told the master, that he must expect immediate death, if he did not discover where his money was concealed.

Terrified by this threat, he told them to take a key from his pocket, which would open a bureau, where they would find a bag containing all the cash then in his possession. The robbers having seized the property, Johnson put the bag in his pocket, and then they re-mounted, and rode to London, where they found the booty to consist of one hundred and fifty pounds : but this they soon dissipated in acts of extravagance ; and then proceeded to commit a number of robberies on the roads of Essex and Kent.

It is now proper to mention the crime for which they suffered ; a murder, equally barbarous and unprovoked. They took horses in Holborn, and,  
 having

having rode to Edmonton, turned up a lane, where they met a postman who was carrying letters round the neighbourhood: the man good-naturedly opened a gate for them to pass, when Johnson demanded his money and watch, which he held out to them, and at that instant was shot dead by Stockdale.

The murder was no sooner committed than they hastened to London; and though the country was alarmed by what had happened, they rode on the following day to Hounslow, where they dined. After dinner they called for their horses: but Stockdale was so intoxicated that he at first fell from the horse, but was replaced.

The magistrates having by this time sent out a number of constables, the murderers were taken into custody, and carried before a magistrate; when Stockdale acknowledged his guilt; but by this time Johnson was so drunk, that he was insensible of his commitment to Newgate.

When Stockdale's master heard of his unhappy situation, he immediately wrote to his father, who coming to London, had a very affecting interview with his son, who exclaimed, "O, Sir, how shall I look you in the face! what disgrace have I brought upon you, what destruction upon myself! A shameful death is preparing for me in this world: but what in the next, God knows!"

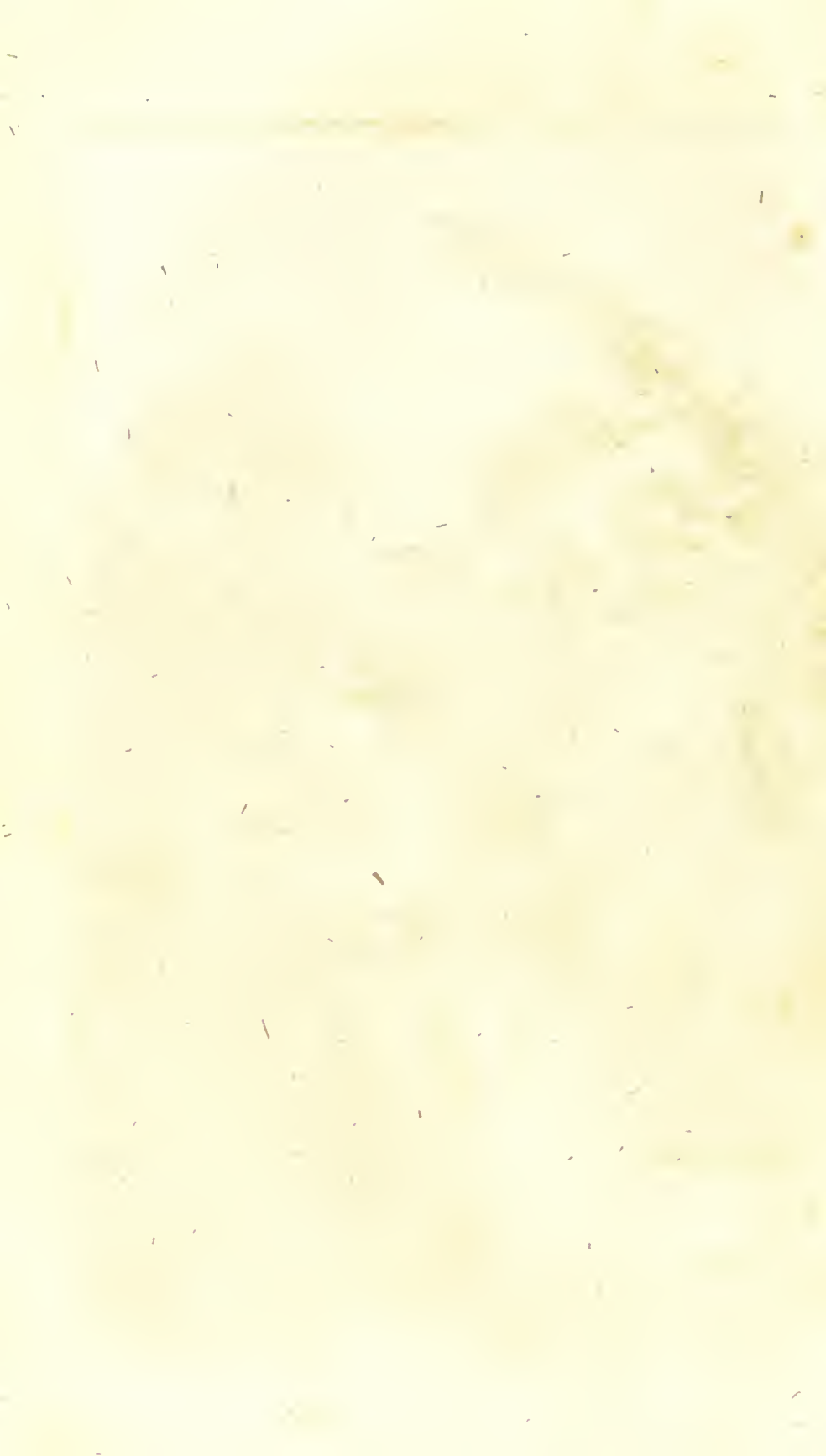
The father advised him to an early preparation for the awful fate that awaited him, and refused to flatter him with hopes of that pardon which could not reasonably be expected. He comforted himself accordingly, and intended to have pleaded guilty, but was afterwards advised not to do so.

While in Newgate Johnson was attacked by a violent fever; and on the day of trial was so reduced,





*Christ. Johnson robbing a POSTMAN, while John Stockdale shoots the poor man dead, near Edmonton.*





duced, that it was necessary to carry him into court, where the judges permitted him a chair to repose himself during the trial. The jury being satisfied with the evidence against the culprits, they were found guilty, and sentence of death was passed on them.

Stockdale spent his time till the execution in the most devout manner; but Johnson was too ill to attend the customary offices of religion. The former made a pathetic address to the populace at the place of execution; and both of them behaved with great apparent penitence.

After execution the bodies were removed to Surgeons'-hall, in preparation for dissection: but soon afterwards an order was received from the secretary of state, that they should be hung in chains: in consequence of which they were carried to Winchmore-hill, where they were exposed by way of warning and example.

These malefactors suffered at Tyburn, on the 2d of July, 1753.

It is impossible but that young men, of any degree of sense, must be struck with the case of these offenders, particularly that of Stockdale, who being well educated, and respectably placed in the world, could so easily forego all his better prospects to become at once a robber and a murderer!

Nothing ought to be more forcibly or frequently impressed on the minds of youth, than duty to their parents, and a steady pursuit of their business, by which, in all human probability, they may avoid the paths of ruin, and live happy in themselves, and a credit to all who are connected with them.

Account of the singular Case of JOSHUA KIDDEN, who was executed for a pretended *Robbery*, falsely sworn against him.

**T**HIS unhappy youth, who fell a victim to the vilest artifice, was a native of London, the son of a watchmaker of reputation, who having given him a good education, bound him to an apothecary: but the young fellow being discontented with his situation, his parents sent him to sea; and, after being six years in the naval service, he returned to England.

His father \* now sent him to school, to learn the theoretical part of navigation, having hopes of procuring his advancement in the navy: but young Kidden, having no disposition for study, quitted the school, and idled away his time in a manner that did him no credit, though it does not appear that he had the least propensity to commit a dishonest action.

Some time after this he became a porter in the Fleet-market, being willing to obtain an honest living by his industry. Going one evening to drink at the Castle in Chick-lane, he got into company with an abandoned miscreant, named Blee, who was employed by some thief-takers to enveigle unhappy young fellows to the commission of robbery, that they might swear against them, and obtain the reward allowed by law on conviction.

Kidden,

---

\* The father of Kidden was an honest, chearful old gentleman, who had too much sense to think himself disgraced by the unfortunate exit of his son; from a consciousness that he had not deserved his fate.

Kidden, who had little employ at that time, told Blee that he was in want of work ; and the latter engaging to procure some for him, got him lodgings in an alley in Chick-lane, where he continued from Friday till the following Monday, when he was told that there was a job at Tottenham, to remove some effects of a gentleman, which would otherwise be seized for rent.

At the time appointed Kidden and Blee went to Tottenham ; and having waited at a public-house till the approach of night, Blee went out, with a pretence of speaking to the gentleman whose goods were to be removed ; but, on his return, said that the business could not be transacted that night.

They now quitted the public-house, and proceeded towards London, after Blee had given Kidden eighteen-pence, as a compensation for the loss of his day's work. On the London side of Tottenham they observed a chaise, and a woman sitting on the side of the road near it. Kidden asked her if she was going to London ; she replied in the affirmative ; but he walked forwards, paying no attention to what she said, till he heard Blee call him back, demanding to know why he walked so fast. Kidden turning back, observed that Blee was robbing the woman ; on which he declined a nearer approach, disdaining to have any concern in such a transaction : but Blee, running up to him, said, " I have got the money ;" and would have prevailed on him to take half a crown : but this he declined.

Blee then desired Kidden not to leave him ; and the latter staying two or three minutes, a thief-taker named M'Daniel rushed from a hedge, and seizing Kidden, told him that he was his prisoner.

The woman thus pretendedly robbed was one Mary Jones ; and all the parties going before a magistrate, it was positively sworn that Kidden was the robber, and that he took twenty-five shillings from the woman : on which he was committed to Newgate.

Mary Jones, the woman supposed to have been robbed, lodged in Brokers-alley, Drury-lane ; and the friends and relations of Kidden, assured in their own minds of his innocence, went thither to enquire after her character, which they found to be so totally abandoned, that they had no doubt but that the whole was a pre-concerted plot for his destruction.

When the trial came on, Mary Jones and two thief-takers swore positively to the unhappy lad, who was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die ; and a report was industriously circulated that he had committed several robberies as a footpad : but this was only the effort of villany, to depreciate the character of an innocent man, in order to receive the reward for his conviction, which was actually paid.

After sentence of death was passed, Kidden made a constant, uniform, and solemn avowal of his innocence. He told how the thief-takers had imposed on him ; and his tale was universally credited, when it was too late to save him from the fatal consequences of their villanous devices.

Repeated applications were made that mercy might be extended to the unhappy convict ; but these were in vain. The warrant for his execution arrived, and he resigned to his fate in the most becoming manner, lamenting the present disgrace that his relations would undergo, but entertaining  
no



no doubt that the decrees of Providence would soon give ample testimony of his innocence.

At the place of execution he employed himself in the most fervent devotion, and made an address to the surrounding multitude, advising them to have a particular regard to the company with which they associated.

This ill-fated youth suffered at Tyburn, on the 4th of February, 1754.

The untimely death of Kidden ought to be a warning to magistrates, not to give credit to the most solemn asseverations of thief-takers, unless there be some corroborative testimony to strengthen their evidence.

It is to be lamented that the encreasing degeneracy of the times renders the employment of thief-takers at all necessary; since there is but too much reason to fear that these people make a gainful trade of what ought to be considered as only a duty to the public.



A full and authentic Account of CAPT. JOHN LANCEY, who was hanged at *Execution-dock*, for burning a Merchant-ship, in order to defraud the Insurers.

**T**HIS malefactor was a native of Biddeford in Devonshire, respectably born, and well educated. As he gave early proofs of an inclination for a sea-faring life, he was taught navigation, was attentive to his studies, and gave proofs of a goodness of disposition that promised a better fate than afterwards attended him.

Lancey was sent to sea as mate of a ship, of which Mr. Benson, a rich merchant at Biddeford,

was the proprietor. Lancey, having married a relation of Benson, was soon advanced to the command of the vessel. This Benson was member of parliament for Barnstaple in Devonshire; and what kind of character he deserved will appear in the sequel.

After Lancey had returned from a long voyage, he was for a considerable time confined to his bed by a violent illness, the expence of which tended considerably to impoverish him. When he was in part recovered, Benson told him that he proposed to refit the ship in which he had formerly sailed; that Lancey should have the command of her; that he (Benson) would insure her for more than double her value; and then Lancey should destroy the vessel.

This proposal appeared shocking to Lancey, who thought it but a trial of his honesty, and declared his sentiments, saying, that he would never take any part in a transaction so totally opposite to the whole tenor of his conduct.

For the present, nothing more was said; but soon afterwards Benson invited Lancey and several other gentlemen to dine with him. The entertainment was liberal; and captain Lancey being asked to stay after the rest of the company were gone, Mr. Benson took him to a summer-house in the garden, where he again proposed the destroying the ship, and urged it in a manner that proved he was in earnest.

Captain Lancey hesitated a short time on this proposal, and then declined to have any concern in so iniquitous a scheme; declaring, that he would seek other employment, rather than take any part in such a transaction: but Benson, resolving if possible not to lose his agent, prevailed on him to  
drink

drink freely, and then urged every argument he could think of to prevail on him to undertake the business, promising to shelter him from punishment in case of detection.

Lancey still hesitated ; but when Benson mentioned the poverty to which his family was reduced by his late illness, and offered such flattering prospects of protection, the unhappy man at length yielded, to his own destruction.

A ship was now fitted out, and bound for Maryland : goods to a large amount were shipped on board, but re-landed before the vessel sailed, and a lading of brickbats taken in by way of ballast.

They had not been long at sea, when a hole was bored in the side of the ship, and a cask of combustible ingredients was set on fire, with a view to destroy her. The fire no sooner appeared, than the captain called to some convicted transports, then in the hold, to enquire if they had fired the vessel ; which appears to have been only a feint, to conceal the real design.

The boat being hoisted out, all the crew got safe on shore ; and then Lancey repaired immediately to Benson, to inform him of what had passed. Benson instantly dispatched him to a proctor, before whom he swore that the ship had accidentally taken fire, and that it was impossible to prevent the consequences which followed.

Lancey now repaired to his own house, and continued with as much apparent unconcern as if such a piece of villainy had not been perpetrated ; but he was soon afterwards taken into custody by a constable, who informed him, that oath had been made of the transaction before the mayor of Exeter by one of the seamen. Lancey, however, did not  
express

express much concern, secure in his idea of protection from the supposed influence of Benson.

On the following day Lancey, and one of the ship's crew, were committed to the gaol of Exeter, where they remained three months; and, being then removed to London, were examined by Sir Thomas Salisbury, the judge of the Admiralty court, and committed to the prison of the Marshalsea. Application was afterwards made to the court of Admiralty, to admit them to bail; and there appeared to be no objection to granting the favour; but Benson\*, on whom they had depended for bail, had absconded, to escape the justice due to his atrocious crime.

Being committed to Newgate, they were brought to trial at the next sessions of Admiralty held at the Old Bailey; when Lancey was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but the other was acquitted.

Lancey lay in prison about four months after conviction, during which his behaviour was altogether consistent with his unhappy situation. His christian charity was remarkable towards Benson; for, though that wicked man had been the cause and instigator of his ruin, yet he never once reflected on him, but imputed all the crime to himself, and appeared to behold it in its genuine light of deformity.

It was presumed, when he was first apprehended, that he might have been admitted an evidence against Benson, if he would have impeached him: but this he steadily refused to do.

His

\* We have been informed that Benson fled to Ireland; and has been since frequently in England, though no notice has been taken of him.



His devotional exercises were exemplary: he attended prayers in the most regular manner, and gave every proof of his contrition. He was accompanied to the place of execution by two clergymen; and, having confessed his guilt in a speech to the surrounding multitude, he underwent the sentence of the law.

This unhappy man suffered at Execution-dock on the 7th of June, 1754, in the 27th year of his age.

What shall we say to a folly so great as that of Lancey! to a guilt so enormous as that of Benson! The former was culpable in a great degree; but the latter in a much greater, for he, like the devil, first seduced the unhappy man to error, and then left him to destruction.

Abhorred be the thought of committing such a crime as that of Lancey! still more abhorred be the crime of Benson! The man of rank and fortune, who could deliberately seduce the needy dependant to an act of such atrocious villany, is deserving of general execration.

On the whole, we may learn that the dangers of the sea are not to be compared with those of dishonesty, and that the perils of shipwreck are nothing to the wreck of a good conscience. Honour and probity will bear us safely thro' the sea of danger, and conduct us into the harbour of peace.



Account of the Cases of MARY SQUIRES, who was convicted of *Robbery*, and pardoned; and of ELIZABETH CANNING, who was convicted of and transported for *Perjury*, in swearing to that Robbery.

THERE is so much of mystery in the following case, that it seems beyond the bounds of human sagacity to determine on which side the merit lies. The story, with all its particulars, must be within the memory of many of our readers, who have already formed their opinion of it; and it has been of such public notoriety, that few persons can be wholly unacquainted with it: we shall, therefore, only give an abridged account, fairly stated from the evidence as it arose, without favour or affection to either party.

If Elizabeth Canning's own story may be credited, she quitted the house of her mother, near Aldermanbury, on the 1st of January, 1753; and, having visited her uncle and aunt, who lived near Saltpetre-bank, was, on her return, assaulted in Moorfields by two men, who robbed her of half a guinea, which was in a small box in her pocket, and three shillings that were loose. They also took her gown, apron, and hat, which one of them put into the pocket of his great-coat: on which she screamed out; but he bound a handkerchief round her mouth, and tied her hands behind her; after which she received a violent blow on the head, which, added to her former terror, occasioned her falling into a fit, a disorder to which she had been subject about four years.

On her recovery from the fit, and about half an hour before she reached Wells's-house, she found herself by the road-side, the two men dragging her forward. She observed water near the road, and arrived at the house where she said she was confined about three hours before day-light. When she came into the house, she did not see the mistress of it, Susannah Wells; but saw Mary Squires, a gipsy, and two girls.

Squires taking Canning by the hand, asked her if she chose to go *their way*; and, if she would, she should have fine cloaths. Canning, understanding that her meaning was to commence prostitute, replied in the negative; on which Squires took a knife from a drawer, cut the lace from her stays, and took them from her. Then Squires pushed her up a few stairs out of the kitchen, to a place called the hayloft, and shut the door on her. On the approach of day-light, she found that the room had neither bed nor bedstead, and only hay to sleep on; that there was a black pitcher nearly full of water, and about twenty-four pieces of bread, in the whole about the quantity of a quartern loaf; and that she had in her pocket a penny minced-pie, which she had bought to carry to her brother.

She said, that she covered herself with a bed-gown and handkerchief, which she found in the grate; and that for the space of twenty-eight days, within a few hours, which she remained there, she had no food nor liquor, except what is above mentioned, nor had the common evacuation of nature.

About four in the afternoon of Monday the 29th of January, she pulled down a board that was nailed on the inside of the window, and getting her head first out, she kept fast hold by the wall, and

then dropped into a narrow place by a lane, behind which was a field.

Having got into the highway, she enquired her way to London, but did not stop. When she came into Moorfields, the clock struck ten; and she thence proceeded to her mother's near Aldermanbury, where she told the above story to two gentlemen with whom she had lived as a servant: to which she added, that the place where she had been confined was near the Hertfordshire road, which was evident from her having seen a coachman drive by, who had frequently carried her mistress into Hertfordshire.

A number of circumstances giving reason to suspect that the house in which she had been confined was that of Susannah Wells, a warrant was issued to apprehend her and Squires, and such other people as might be found in the house.

Mr. Lion, with whom she had lived servant, and several other persons, went with her to execute the warrant. When she came to the place, she fixed on Mary Squires, as the person who had robbed her; and she said that Virtue Hall stood by while her flays were cut off.

On this, all the parties were carried before Justice Tyshmaker; when Hall so solemnly denied all knowledge of any such transaction having happened since she had been in the house, that she was discharged; but Squires was committed to New-prison for the robbery, and Wells for aiding and abetting her.

Soon afterwards justice Fielding was applied to for a warrant for the apprehension of Hall, and she was examined before that magistrate for six hours, during which she continued in her former declaration. At length the justice said, that "he would  
" examine



“ examine her no longer, but would commit her  
 “ to prison, and leave her to stand or fall by the  
 “ evidence that should be produced against her ;”  
 and he advised an attorney to prosecute her as a felon.

Hereupon she begged to be heard, and said she would tell the whole truth ; and the substance of her declaration was, that Canning had been at Mrs. Wells’s, and was robbed in the manner that she herself had declared.

On this Squires and Wells were brought to trial at the Old Bailey, and convicted, principally on the evidence of Virtue Hall, the first for assaulting and robbing Elizabeth Canning, and the latter for harbouring, concealing, and comforting her, well knowing her to have committed the robbery : and John Gibson, William Clark, and Thomas Grevil, having positively sworn that Squires was in Dorsetshire at the time when the robbery was said to have been perpetrated, they were committed to be tried for perjury.

Some gentlemen who had heard the trial, being dissatisfied with the evidence, made such application, that a free pardon was granted to Squires.

In the mean time, numbers of people were of opinion that the countrymen had sworn to the truth ; and measures were accordingly taken to indict Canning for perjury : but, at the next sessions, her friends preferred bills of indictment against the men. Bills of indictment against the opposite parties being brought at the same time, the grand jury threw them all out ; being resolved not to give any countenance to such a scene of perjury as must arise on one side or the other.

This happened at the sessions in April ; but, at the next sessions, in June, bills of indictment were

found against the countrymen : these, however, were intended to be removed into the court of King's Bench, by writ of certiorari ; but the court refused to grant the writ, alledging, that the indictments ought to be tried at the Old-Bailey, because the king's commission of gaol-delivery was directed to that court. Hereupon the countrymen were bailed ; and, at the sessions held in the month of September following, they were arraigned, but were honourably acquitted, no person appearing to give evidence against them.

Squires being pardoned, and these men thus acquitted, the public opinion of this singular case became still more divided. Every one saw that there must have been perjury in the affair ; but it was impossible to determine on which side it lay.

The lord-mayor of London, at that time, was Sir Crisp Gascoyne, who exerted himself in the most vigilant manner to come at the truth of this mysterious affair ; for which, as is but too common, he was abused with a degree of virulence that reflected the highest infamy on his calumniators ; for, whatever might be their private opinion, or whatever his own, it was certainly the duty of a good magistrate to endeavour to investigate the truth :

In the month of May, 1754, Elizabeth Canning was indicted at the Old Bailey, for wilful and corrupt perjury, in swearing that she had been robbed by Mary Squires. A great number of witnesses swore that Squires was near Abbotsbury at the time that the robbery was said to have been committed : and, on the contrary, more than thirty persons of reputation declared on oath, that Canning's character stood so fair, that they could not conceive her capable of being guilty of such an atrocious crime as wilful perjury.

Ingenious

Ingenious arguments were used, by the council on each side ; and the jury, after mature deliberation, brought in a verdict, that she was guilty ; in consequence of which, she received sentence to be transported for seven years.

No affair that was ever determined in a judicial way did, perhaps, so much excite the curiosity, or divide the opinion of the public, as that in question. The news-papers and magazines were for a long time filled with little else than accounts of Canning and Squires : prints of both parties were published, and bought up with great avidity. Canning was remarkable for what is called the plainness, and Squires for the ugliness, of person ; and perhaps there never was a human face more disagreeable than that of the latter.

We should hardly be thought to exceed the truth, if we were to say that ten thousand quarrels arose from, and fifty thousand wagers were laid on, this business. All Great Britain and Ireland seemed to be interested in the event : and the person who did not espouse either one party or the other, was thought to have no feeling. The first question in the morning was, “ What news of Canning ? ” and the last squabble at night was, whether she was honest or perjured : but this, however, could never be determined ; and it will probably remain a mystery as long as the world endures.

Elizabeth Canning was transported to New England, on the 31st of July, 1754, having first received some hundred pounds, collected by the bounty of her friends and partizans.

She was afterwards reputably married in America ; and the news-papers gave notice, that she died some years ago in that country.

From

From this story we may learn two useful lessons, on the fallibility of human testimony, and the horrid crime of perjury. If Canning was guilty, her crime was of the most enormous magnitude, that of endeavouring to swear away a life, in order to cover, perhaps, her own disgrace; for some persons thought that she had been debauched in her absence, and that the whole was a concerted scheme to conceal the truth. If she was innocent, what a variety of perjuries must have been committed by the opposite parties!

Upon the whole, we must end as we began: this story is enveloped in mystery; and the truth of it must be left to the discoveries of that important day, when all mists shall be wiped from our eyes, and the most hidden things shall be made plain. In the mean time, it is our duty to admire and adore those inscrutable decrees of Providence, which can bring good out of evil, and answer its own wise and gracious purposes, by means least apparent to finite comprehension!



A full Account of the horrid and unexampled Case of NICOL BROWN, who was hanged at *Edinburgh*, for forcing his Wife into the Fire, by which she was burnt to Death.

**T**HIS atrocious offender was a native of Cramond, a small town near *Edinburgh*, where he received a liberal education. At a proper age he was placed with a butcher in that city, and, when his apprenticeship was expired, went to sea in a man of war, and continued in that station four years,



years. The ship being paid off, Brown returned to Edinburgh, and married the widow of a butcher, who had left her a decent fortune.

Soon after his marriage Brown commenced dealer in cattle; in which he met with such success, that, in the course of a few years, he became possessed of a considerable sum. His success, however, did not inspire him with sentiments of humanity. His temper was so bad, that he was shunned by all serious people of his acquaintance; for he delighted in fomenting quarrels among his neighbours.

Taking to a habit of drinking, he seldom came home sober at night; and his wife following his example, he used frequently to beat her for copying his own crime. This conduct rendered both parties obnoxious to their acquaintance; and the following story of Brown, which may be relied on as a fact, will incontestably evidence the unfeeling brutality of his nature.

About a week after the execution of Norman Ross \* for murder, Brown had been drinking with some company at Leith, till, in the height of their jollity, they boasted what extravagant actions they could perform. Brown swore, that he would cut off a piece of flesh from the leg of the dead man, and eat it. His companions, drunk as they were, appeared shocked at the very idea; while Brown, to prove that he was in earnest, procured a ladder, which he carried to the gibbet, and cutting off a piece of flesh from the leg of the deceased, brought it back, broiled, and ate it.

This circumstance was much talked of, but little credit was given to it by the inhabitants of Edinburgh,

---

\* See an account of Norman Ross, vol. III. p. 297.

burgh, till Brown's companions gave the fullest testimony to its truth. It will be now proper that we recite the particulars of the shocking crime for which this offender forfeited his life.

After having been drinking at an alehouse in the Cannongate, Edinburgh, he went home about eleven at night in a high degree of intoxication. His wife was also much in liquor; but, though equally criminal himself, he was so exasperated against her, that he struck her so violently, that she fell from her chair. The noise of her fall alarmed the neighbours; but, as frequent quarrels had happened between them, no immediate notice was taken of the affair.

In about fifteen minutes, the wife was heard to cry out "murder! help! fire! the rogue is murdering me! help, for Christ's sake!" The neighbours now, apprehending real danger, knocked at the door; but no person being in the house but Brown and his wife, no admission was granted; and the woman was heard to groan most shockingly\*.

A person, looking through the key-hole, saw Brown holding his wife to the fire; on which he was called on to open the door: but neglecting to do so, the candle being extinguished, and the woman still continuing her cries, the door was at length forced open; and, when the neighbours went in, they beheld her a most shocking spectacle,  
...laying

---

\* If a transaction of this kind had happened in London, the door would have been burst open in an instant, and the offender apprehended before he could have completed his design.

laying half naked before the fire, and her flesh in part broiled. In the interim, Brown had got into bed, pretended to be asleep, and, when spoken to, appeared ignorant of the transaction. The woman, though so dreadfully burnt, retained her senses, accused her husband of the murder, and told in what manner it was perpetrated. She survived till the following morning, still continuing in the same tale, and then expired in the utmost agony.

Hereupon the murderer was seized, and, being lodged in the gaol of Edinburgh, was brought to trial, and capitally convicted.

After sentence, he was allowed six weeks to prepare himself for a future state, agreeable to the custom in Scotland.

He was visited by several divines of Edinburgh, but steadily persisted in the denial of his guilt, affirming that he was ignorant of his wife being burnt, till the door was broke open by the neighbours.

Among others who visited the criminal was the reverend Mr. Kinloch, an ancient minister, who urging him to confess his crime, received no other reply, than that, "if he was to die to-morrow, he would have a new suit of cloaths, to appear decently at the gallows." Mr. Kinloch was so affected by his declaration, that he shed tears over the unhappy convict.

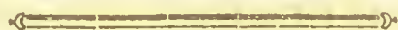
On the following day, he was attended to the place of execution by the reverend Dr. Brown: but to the last he denied having been guilty of the crime for which he suffered.

After execution, he was hung in chains; but the body was stolen from the gibbet, and thrown into a pond, where being found, it was exposed as

before. In a few days however, it was again stolen; and though a reward was offered for its discovery no such discovery was made.

This malefactor suffered at Edinburgh, on the 14th of August, 1754.

It is impossible to express sufficient horror at the crime of which this man was guilty: and it is therefore the less necessary to make any remarks on his case, as no one can be tempted to think of committing a similar crime till he is totally divested of all the feelings of humanity. From a fate so wretched as this, may the God of infinite mercy deliver us!



Particular Account of the very extraordinary Exploits of JOHN POULTER, alias BAXTER, who was executed for a *Highway-Robbery*; including the Adventures of many of his Associates in Villany.

THIS malefactor was the son of honest people in indigent circumstances, residing at Newmarket in the county of Cambridge; who, when he had nearly completed his seventh year, put him to a day-school, which he continued to attend till he was about thirteen years old, when he was engaged as an assistant to the grooms in the service of the duke of Somerset. Having remained in this situation six years, he was hired by lord John Cavendish, whose horses he attended about three years, and then entered into the service of colonel Lumley, brother to the earl of Scarborough. He was sent by this gentleman three times with horses



horses to France, and was considered as an honest and industrious servant.

Being of a temper that delighted in a change of situation, he entered on board a trading ship belonging to Bristol; and he discovered no inclination to vicious courses till he had made several voyages to the West Indies and North America.

The ship to which he belonged being paid off on the conclusion of the peace of Aix la Chapelle, he connected himself with Mary Brown and Mary Davis, women of abandoned characters; and they, in conjunction with John Brown, persuaded him to join them in committing depredations on the public.

They directed their course towards Litchfield, and upon their arrival there went into a public-house for refreshment. Being introduced to a parlour, Mary Brown observed a chest, and the lid not being close, she put in her hand, and stole a sum of money, and several other articles of value.

Having obtained the above booty, the gang proceeded to Chester, where Poulter stole some plush, and sent for a taylor to make it into a suit of cloaths. While the taylor was measuring him, a pistol that was in his pocket accidentally went off, but fortunately no damage was done by the ball. The taylor carried the plush home, and then went to the mayor, to whom he communicated his suspicions. Officers were dispatched to examine Poulter, and his companions; but being apprized of their approach, they embarked on board a packet-boat, which conveyed them to Dublin.

Soon after his arrival in Dublin, Poulter hired a public-house, where he sold on an average five barrels of ale weekly, and other liquors in proportion. His great success in business induced him to

make a resolution of entirely declining illegal pursuits: and to this he would, in all probability, have strictly adhered, had he not been unluckily compelled to renew his acquaintance with abandoned people.

General Sinclair had his pocket picked of a valuable gold watch, either in going into or departing from Leicester-house; and two men, named Harper and Tobin, were suspected to be guilty of the fact, and committed to the Gate-house. A desperate gang of twenty-four Irishmen rescued Harper: in consequence of which a proclamation, offering a reward for apprehending them, was issued; but they all escaped to Ireland. One of the above gang, named James Field, who had been acquainted with Poulter, went up to him while he was standing at his door, and after some conversation they drank together.

On the following day, Field took the whole gang to Poulter's house. He requested them to depart, and at other times endeavoured to dissuade them from frequenting his house, urging that their visits might be productive of very disagreeable consequences to him: but they disregarded what he said, and continued their meetings as usual. At length they were observed in the house, by a messenger that had been dispatched in search of them from London, and taken into custody.

In consequence of the above affair, Poulter absconded from his house in the night, and his stock of liquors and other effects were seized by the magistrates.

Poulter now intended to reside at Cork, but not being able to get a house there that he thought would answer his purpose, he went to Waterford and took a public-house, which he kept about three

three months. His brewer in Dublin wrote him word, that he might return without the least danger of molestation; and therefore he departed from Waterford, and took a house about two miles from the city, at a place called the Shades of Clontarf. His house being adjacent to the sea, he purchased a boat, and applied himself with so much industry to the business of a fisherman, that his weekly profits seldom amounted to less than three pounds.

Thomas Tobin being acquitted of the charge of stealing general Sinclair's watch, through defect of evidence, and learning that Poulter had struck into an advantageous line of life, he determined to visit him. In pursuance of this design, Tobin and a woman with whom he cohabited travelled to Holy-head, and there embarked in the packet for Dublin. Poulter received them with great kindness, and entertained them with equal generosity; but entreated, in the most earnest manner, that they would not repeat their visits too frequently, nor make his place of residence known to their accomplices.

Though they had faithfully promised to comply with his request, they in a few days introduced several of their associates to Poulter's house, which, before many weeks had elapsed, became the receptacle for thieves of every denomination, by whom Dublin and its environs were infested.

Poulter still adhered to his resolution of gaining a livelihood by honest labour, and informed his unwelcome guests that he would permit them no longer to frequent his house. In revenge for this, they concerted and put in practice a plan for effecting the ruin of Poulter.

Six pounds of smuggled tea being procured, one of the gang privately conveyed it into Poulter's boat,



boat, and then lodged an information against him; in consequence of which the boat was seized and condemned; and Poulter, though innocent, judged it expedient to abscond.

He embarked for Bristol, and on his arrival there was entirely destitute of money. From Bristol he proceeded to Bath, where he met with his former acquaintances, Richard Branning and John Roberts, who prevailed upon him to join them in committing depredations on the highway. They mentioned a man of property who lived at Towbridge, and frequently came to Bath to change bills; and it was resolved to attempt robbing him:

They met at Roberts's house, where the plan of the intended robbery was concerted, and then they repaired to the public-house, which was frequented by the gentleman of Towbridge, and observing him counting money, they concluded that they could not fail obtaining a considerable booty. However, they were disappointed; for the gentleman, suspecting their design, returned by a road which he had not been used to travel, and by that measure luckily preserved his property.

They now proceeded into Yorkshire; and in their way committed several robberies. At the inn where they alighted at Hallifax, they were joined by a clergyman, whom they seduced to prick in the belt, by which stratagem they defrauded him of twenty-five guineas.

They now went to Stockport in Cheshire, where they lay one night, and then travelled to Chester. Putting up at a house kept by one James Roberts, who had formerly belonged to the gang, he informed them that the pack-horses with Manchester goods would pass in the evening; and it was resolved to steal one of the horses, and the goods he carried.



carried. As the horses passed, Roberts pointed to that loaded with the most valuable effects, and advised his companions to go about a mile from the town, and drive the beast into the fields, adding, that he would scarcely be missed by the carrier in less than two hours, in which time they might secure the goods and escape.

The horse they seized was not that pointed out by Roberts; and their booty consisted only of callimancoes. Finding himself separated from his companions, the horse neighed so loud and frequent that they judged it necessary to gag him, lest the noise should lead to a discovery.

They reached Whitchurch, in Shropshire, the same night; and, after refreshing themselves at a house notorious for the reception of robbers, cut the marks from the goods, and exposed them for sale in the market.

Having sold the callimancoes, they proceeded to Grantham in Lincolnshire, and defrauded a farmer of that place of near sixteen pounds, by pricking in the belt; immediately after which they set out for Nottingham, where they stole a silver tankard, and after selling it to a shopkeeper in the town, proceeded to York.

Having stolen some plate from the inn where they put up, and committed several robberies in different parts of Yorkshire, they deemed it prudent to remove from that part of the county, lest they should be apprehended, and came to the resolution of joining their former associates at Bath.

Soon after their arrival at Bath, the whole gang set out for Sandford-Peverel in Devonshire, in order to be present at a great fair for cattle; and during their residence there they obtained

con-

siderable sums by pricking in the belt, and other infamous practices.

They next went to Great Torrington, where they defrauded a farmer of twenty pounds. Enraged by the imposition that had been practised upon him, the farmer took every opportunity of relating the particulars of the fraud; so that the whole neighbourhood was soon alarmed, and in pursuit of the sharpers; and they were therefore under the necessity of dispersing.

Poulter and Brown directed their course to Exeter, and having defrauded an inhabitant of that town of five pounds, proceeded to Crookhorn, in expectation of meeting their associates: but, on their arrival, they learnt that two of them were in confinement, charged with fraudulent practices. This information occasioned the rest of the gang to make a precipitate retreat; and in their way to the north of England, they obtained several sums, by a variety of infamous stratagems.

They remained some months at York, Durham and Newcastle; and, after defrauding a number of farmers, and some other persons, of money, they went to Bath, where they assumed the character of smugglers.

They had not been long at Bath before they determined to go to the approaching Blandford races, in search of adventures. During the races, one party attended the Cock-pit each morning: some were upon the course in the afternoon; and others were employed in cheating the keepers of the booths. They were so successful in their respective departments of villany, as to amass a very considerable sum; and, on the conclusion of the races, they ordered an elegant dinner at the Crown tavern in Blandford, whence they stole a portmanteau,  
containing

containing eighteen guineas, four broad pieces, a large sum in Portugal pieces, some silver coin, a gold repeating watch, with superb appendages, several necklaces set with diamonds and other jewels, a great quantity of rich cloaths, a pair of gold shoe-buckles, a gold girdle-buckle, a gold coral, and many other articles of value.

Immediately after the above robbery, Poulter and Brown set out for London, and, having sold the effects to some Jews in Duke's-place, they joined their accomplices at Roberts's house at Bath, where the produce of their booty was divided.

The next expedition was to a fair held at Corsham, where Poulter stole a silver tankard, which he carried to Roberts's house.

They now went to Farringdon in Berkshire, in order to wait there for the Coventry carrier, whom they had determined to rob. After waiting two days, the carrier arrived; and when he left the town in the morning, they followed him, and robbed him of effects to a considerable value.

They next rode to Newbury, where they fraudulently obtained four guineas, his horse and watch, from an unsuspecting countryman; and then returned to their rendezvous at Bath.

They endeavoured to force open a house at Bath, but being observed by a man in a state of intoxication, who was casually passing, he exerted the utmost strength of his voice to alarm the neighbourhood; which occasioned the villains to decamp without effecting the intended burglary.

On the following morning Poulter and some of his companions went to Bristol, where they joined company with a countryman, and defrauded him out of twenty guineas, which he had borrowed of

an acquaintance, who kept a shop in the neighbourhood.

Their villanies had now rendered their characters so notorious, and their persons so well known, throughout the west of England, that they determined to decline their former practices, and adopt that of horse-stealing. To avoid detection, they were careful not to offer horses to sale in that part of the kingdom where they had stolen them. And they still continued to travel occasionally to Bath, where they spent a great part of their money in Roberts's house.

A customer to Roberts shewed him twenty pounds, saying he had just received it; and Roberts immediately pointed out the man to Poulter, informing him at the same time of the booty he might acquire by robbing him. Towards night the countryman mounted his horse, and was followed by Poulter, who holding a tinder-box to him instead of a pistol, demanded his money, which was delivered.

Soon after the above robbery, the gang went again to Bristol, and, watching an opportunity of lifting up the parlour sash of a gentleman's house, they stole several silver spoons, and some other articles.

One of the gang got unperceived into a watch-maker's house in the same city, while his accomplices waited without, in order to rescue him if he should be detected. He brought from the upper apartments many articles of value, besides a quantity of wearing apparel; and it was some hours before the robbery was discovered.

On the following night Brown secreted himself in a shed adjoining to a barber's house, into which he made a forcible entry about midnight, and was carrying off some wearing apparel, when he was  
heard



heard by the barber and his apprentice. Upon the family being alarmed, Brown got through the garret window to the roof of the house, and remained three hours concealed behind a stack of chimnies. Unable to escape by any other way, he at length resolved to attempt passing through the house: but, while upon the stairs, he was heard by the boy, who ran towards him with a knife in his hand, crying "thieves!" Alarmed by the boy, the barber's wife came, and, upon Brown assuring her that he had taken shelter in the house in order to avoid the pursuit of bailiffs, she informed him that he might remain there till he could go home in safety; but he deemed it prudent to seize the opportunity of making an immediate retreat.

During the ensuing fair at Bristol, they robbed and defrauded several clothiers, and other dealers, of property to a considerable amount. The produce of these effects being expended in Roberts's house, the gang determined upon an expedition into Staffordshire. While they remained in Staffordshire they stole several horses, which were taken to Roberts, who sold them at different fairs held at places adjacent to Bath.

An Irishman, named Bush, an intrepid and desperate fellow, who acted as ostler to Roberts, was at length admitted to the gang; and soon afterwards he set out in company with Poulter towards Towbridge in Wiltshire, with a determination of committing robberies.

Meeting a chaise, Bush declared he would rob the passengers; but Poulter objected, thinking his companion inclined to commit murder. At length he consented to rob the chaise, after it had been agreed that no cruelty should be exercised. It

being nearly dark, Poulter thrust his hand through the glass of the chaise, not knowing that it was drawn up, and it being terribly cut, he hastily withdrew it, and his pistol went off by accident. Bush, supposing the fire to proceed from the gentleman in the carriage, discharged his pistol, but without any particular aim. Poulter now called to his companion to desist; and after taking out of the chaise a child, which he kissed and carefully set upon the ground, he robbed Dr. Hancock, of Salisbury, of a guinea and a half, six shillings, a gold watch, some child-bed linen, and wearing apparel belonging to his lady.

After the above robbery, the villains adjourned to a public-house that had been long frequented by the gang, and produced the stolen effects to the landlord and his wife; and the latter supplied them with a bag for packing the cloaths in. The landlord then drew the charge from a fowling-piece, to furnish them with powder; after which they melted a pewter spoon, and cast two bullets. Bush asking the woman if she was not terrified at seeing them load their pistols, she said that many pistols had been loaded in her kitchen, without giving her the least alarm; adding, that they would do right to travel as far as they could before break of day, and, if they would inform her where they put up, she would transmit them news from Bath.

Leaving this house, they stole a horse at an adjacent farm, and proceeded to Exeter, where they sold the stolen effects to a man who had long carried on an illegal traffic with the whole gang.

In a short time after the above, Poulter was apprehended in a public-house, on suspicion of having robbed doctor Hancock; and being taken before a magistrate, he gave information against his accom-

plices,

plices, mentioning the several places to which they resorted, and recommending the most effectual measures for taking them into custody; particularising those who had been sentenced to transportation, and returned before the expiration of the term of their exile.

While he was under examination, he advised, that the discoveries he had made might be kept profoundly secret, observing, that many persons connected with the gang lived in a reputable manner; and he particularly requested, that the messenger who was ordered to make enquiries at Bath might carefully conceal his business from every person, excepting the mayor. Notwithstanding this precaution, the messenger had not been at Bath more than an hour, before the names of all the villains were universally known; and, on the following morning, printed lists of them were hawked about the streets. In consequence of this imprudent conduct, Poulter's accomplices escaped, and the good effects which the public might have derived from his discoveries were, in a great measure, defeated.

Great part of the property stolen from doctor Hancock was restored to that gentleman, who visited Poulter in prison, and assured him that he would not be a severe prosecutor, and told him, that, if he should be convicted, he would, in all probability, be deemed an object deserving the royal clemency.

Notwithstanding the doctor's promise, he used his utmost endeavours to procure the conviction of Poulter; and even waited upon the judge, to prevent the time of his execution being prolonged. However, he was respited for six weeks.

During

During his confinement, he wrote accounts of a great number of robberies, in which he had been concerned, in divers parts of the kingdom. His discoveries were judged to be of such public importance, that the corporations of Bristol, Bath, Exeter, and Taunton, and many private gentlemen, exerted their utmost interest in his behalf: and it was generally expected that he would receive a pardon, or that the sentence of death would, at least, be mitigated to that of transportation.

He was examined by a gentleman of the law, to whom he related the particulars of the robberies committed by himself and his accomplices, with but very trifling variations from his confession before the magistrate, and what was recited in the papers written by him after his commitment.

Poulter behaved with a decency and moderation becoming his unhappy circumstances; but he was, notwithstanding, an object of the implacable enmity of the gaoler. Though he had paid an extraordinary price for the use of a bed, this inhuman villain would allow him only straw to lay upon, even in the most rigorous season of the year, when he was in a state of health that threatened his speedy dissolution.

The cruelty of the gaoler's treatment occasioned some gentlemen to write to him, desiring he would allow the prisoner a bed. It was imagined, that the malicious representations of the gaoler induced a gentleman of great interest at court to intercept the royal mercy, which, it was generally believed, would be extended to Poulter.

A report being circulated, that Poulter was to be executed on the first of March, he wrote to a gentleman, from whom he had experienced many instances of humanity, requesting to be informed  
whether



whether it was founded in truth, and complaining that the gaoler added to his distress, by perpetually reminding him that he must inevitably fall a victim to the law.

Poulter's dread of being executed daily increasing, he determined to attempt breaking out of prison : and, having communicated his design to one of the debtors, on Sunday the 17th of Feb. they forced an iron bar out of one of the windows, and escaped.

Poulter travelled as far as Glastonbury with one of his irons on ; and, after disengaging himself from that encumbrance, he continued walking all night, although he was extremely weak through long illness, and his legs were galled and swelled in a terrible manner. In the day, they concealed themselves in a hay-rick, and agreed to direct their course towards Wales ; but, being ignorant of the road, they on Tuesday morning found themselves at Wookey, near Wells.

Poulter was so excessively fatigued as to be unable to pursue his journey, and it was therefore agreed that they should take some repose. They went into an alehouse, where they slept till two o'clock ; and they were preparing to depart, when a mason, who lived in the neighbourhood, came to the house for some liquor, and, recollecting the person of Poulter, called to his journeymen to assist in apprehending him. He was secured till the next day, and then conducted back to Ivelchester gaol.

When he was lodged again in prison, nine days of the time for which he was respited remained unexpired : but an express was dispatched to a member of parliament, requesting him to use his interest to obtain an order for his immediate execution.

In

In consequence of this, an order was issued, commanding the high sheriff to cause the sentence of the law to be inflicted upon Poulter within twenty-four hours after the receipt of the express.

Poulter was greatly shocked, upon learning that the warrant was received for his sudden execution: but he soon recovered his spirits, and endeavoured to atone for past offences by a sincere repentance. After receiving the sacrament in a very devout manner, he prayed with an appearance of great fervency, and expressed strong hopes of obtaining pardon from the Almighty, whose displeasure he had not incurred (however great his offences in other respects) by the spilling of innocent blood.

He behaved in a very penitent manner, but still preserved a decent fortitude. At the place of execution, he solemnly declared to the truth of all he had related respecting his accomplices; and, after warning the surrounding multitude to avoid such practices as had proved the cause of his destruction, he prayed some time in a composed and fervent manner, and was then turned off.

John Poulter was hanged at Ivelchester, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 1755.

It is to be lamented that Poulter, through the villany of his former accomplices, was deprived of the advantage that would have necessarily resulted from a reformation of conduct. Denied the opportunity of supporting himself by honest means, he was, in a manner, compelled to join in the iniquitous practices of his former associates; for he was conscious that, had he been hardy enough to oppose their designs, they would have effected his destruction.

Though this man's offences were great, we cannot but regret his being subjected to the utmost  
rigour

rigour of the law ; since, to that public he had so highly injured, he made no inconsiderable reparation, by causing the most dangerous set of villains that ever infested these kingdoms to be dispersed.

Doctor Hancock visited the prisoner, and gave him hopes of life ; but afterwards used every possible endeavour to hasten his execution. Thus he seduced the unhappy man to neglect a preparation for eternity, to which he laboured to precipitate him, “ with all his imperfections on his head.”

The conduct of the gaoler cannot be mentioned in terms of sufficient abhorrence. What character can more provoke our hatred than the man, who, instead of alleviating, insults distress ; instead of calming a perturbed spirit, adds to the poignancy of affliction, and incapacitates a miserable wretch, tottering on the verge of eternity, from appealing to the Almighty with that steady and fervent zeal by which alone he can obtain forgiveness. As a contrast to this inhuman villain of a gaoler, we shall mention Mr. Dagg, who was keeper of Bristol prison, during the confinement of the unfortunate Richard Savage, Esq. He was a man of strict integrity, and universal benevolence ; and his behaviour to Savage gave the ingenious biographer of that unhappy poet occasion for the following reflections : “ Virtue is undoubtedly most  
“ laudable in that state which makes it most difficult ; and, therefore, the humanity of a gaoler  
“ certainly deserves this public attestation ; and  
“ the man whose heart has not been hardened by  
“ such an employment, may justly be proposed as  
“ a pattern of benevolence. If an inscription was  
“ once engraved *to the honest toll-gatherer*, less  
“ honours ought not to be paid *to the tender*  
“ *gaoler.*”



We shall here conclude with observing, that guilt must ever be attended by wretchedness; perpetual fears and alarms will destroy the hope of future happiness; and we no longer consider life as valuable, than while we are able to cherish the expectation, that permanent felicity will reward the toils of the present hour.



Account of the inhuman Practices of STEPHEN M'DANIEL, JOHN BERRY, JAMES EGAN, and JAMES SALMON, by whose wicked Contrivances many innocent Persons lost their Lives; including an Account of the Manner in which EGAN fell a Victim to the Indignation of the enraged Public.

UPON the peace being concluded in the year 1749, great numbers of discharged seamen and soldiers resorted to London; and, to prevent the increase of robberies, it was deemed expedient to offer additional rewards for apprehending those, who, in certain cases, had been guilty of a violation of the law.

The act of parliament for enlarging the reward was no sooner passed, than the four thief-takers above mentioned entered into a diabolical combination for accusing innocent people of capital offences, for the sake of the emolument they should derive in case of their being convicted; and it was several years before a period was put to their horrid practices.

These villains frequently proceeded in the following manner: one of them enticed two persons to join him in committing a highway robbery on one



one of the gang; a third was to purchase the stolen goods; and the other was to apprehend the intended victims, permitting his accomplice, who had been concerned in the robbery, to escape, and then to join the party robbed and the receiver in the prosecution. But if, through the information of the other two, the thief-taker, who proposed and assisted in the robbery, was apprehended, then, in order to preserve him, the prosecution was not supported.

These villains exhibited an accusation of robbery against two young men, named Newman and March. Upon their trial, they related the manner in which they had been seduced; but the evidence of the thief-takers was so strong, that they were convicted, and suffered death.

A poor man, named Tyler, was met by one of the gang, who said he would make him a present of a horse, for which he had no further occasion. The unfortunate man joyfully received the horse from his apparently generous benefactor; by whom he was advised to take the beast to an inn in Smithfield, there to be taken care of till he should determine in what manner to dispose of him. Before he could reach Smithfield, he was seized by Egan, who took him before the sitting alderman; and it being sworn that he had stolen the horse, he was committed to Newgate, and soon afterwards hanged. In the year 1753, they charged an innocent man, named Woodland, with felony; and he was committed, and sentenced to suffer death: but he was so fortunate as to receive a pardon, on condition of transportation. The villains, however, claimed, and actually received, the reward, in consequence of their having prosecuted him to conviction.

Joshua Kidden, whom we have mentioned in the preceding pages, was the next who fell a sacrifice to their abominable artifices. It would be tedious to our readers, were we to recount the particulars relating to the many people who suffered death through the false evidence of these atrocious villains; and especially as the several cases bear much similarity to each other. We shall now proceed to a narrative of the fact of which they were convicted.

The money obtained by the conviction of Kidden being nearly expended, they employed themselves in concerting new schemes of villainy for recruiting their finances. It was determined to employ a man named Blee, a fellow of abandoned principles, who had for some time acted as an assistant to Berry, in attending in the fields about Islington, till he could decoy two idle boys to consent to join him in a robbery.

They all held a meeting in an arbour belonging to a public-house, the sign of Sir John Oldcastle, in the neighbourhood of Islington, where they appointed the time for committing the robbery, and that it should be near Deptford, on account of the inhabitants of Greenwich having advertised twenty pounds for the apprehending any highwayman or footpad, in addition to the reward allowed by parliament. Their wicked plan being settled, they separated; for, lest they should be suspected of holding an improper correspondence, they were particularly careful not to be seen together, where there was a probability of their persons being known.

They afterwards met at the Bell-inn, Holborn, and there came to the following agreement: that Salmon, who was a breeches-maker by trade, should

should make two pair of breeches, and put them into a handkerchief, having a particular mark : that he should have a pocket-piece, a tobacco-box with his name engraved on the lid, and some other articles which he could accurately describe ; and that he should be robbed by Blee, in conjunction with any two boys whom he could prevail upon to join him.

On the following morning, Berry directed Blee to go into the Fleet-market in search of two boys, giving him three-pence, that he might treat with gin those he should think most likely to comply with his proposal. Blee met with John Ellis and Peter Kelly, whom he treated with gin, and then departed, not doubting of their ready compliance, as he knew they had been guilty of picking-pockets, and other mean offences.

Upon returning to Berry, he received another three-pence, with orders to tamper with the boys ; and, if they seemed likely to fall into the snare, to mention, that, if they would join him, a considerable booty in linen might be obtained at Deptford. Blee treated the boys a second time, and then proposed the robbery, in which they consented to become parties.

The gang met the next day at an ale-house in Holborn, and gave Blee money to treat the boys with liquor. M'Daniel, being suspicious that Blee had not made the progress he pretended, insisted upon seeing the intended victims ; in consequence of which he, accompanied by Berry and Blee, went to the Fleet-market, where the latter pointed to the boys, who were then in a pea-cart.

A short time afterwards the whole gang went to the Artillery-ground, in order to see the boys ; and soon after entering that place, they were witnesses to



to Ellis being punished by the discipline of the horse-pond, he having been detected in picking a gentleman's pocket. Having escaped from the mob, he was followed by Blee, who gave him some halfpence, to purchase gin, and pay for his lodging.

After some debates, it was agreed that the horrid plan should be carried into execution on the following Monday. About nine in the morning Blee went in search of the boys, and took them to a public-house in Little Britain, where they had bread and cheese, and beer, which Blee paid for, out of a crown he had received from his accomplices for the purpose of treating them. From this house they went to the sign of the Bell in the Borough, where the rest of the gang were to see them, in order to be convinced that they had not failed meeting. Kelly seeing Berry sitting in a room at the Bell, and knowing him to be a thief-taker, was much alarmed; but his tranquillity returned, upon being assured by Blee that he had no cause for fear.

Blee now took his two devoted companions to a house in the Borough market, and gave them liquor till they were in a state of intoxication. They then adjourned to a field, where the boys slept some time; and being awakened by Blee, they proceeded towards Deptford.

They went to the Ship alehouse at Deptford; where they had been but a short time when Salmon came in, and, pretending to be drunk, leant against the dresser, and said he was going to London.

When it was nearly dark, Salmon went out of the house; and presently afterwards Blee desired the boys to take a walk with him. Salmon waited near the four-mile stone, as had been agreed;  
and



and when Blee, Ellis and Kelly came within sight of him, the former said, "There is the old breeches-maker, that was so drunk at the Ship;" and proposed to rob him, to which the others consented.

Kelly asking Salmon what he had under his arm, Salmon said he would readily deliver his property, begging that he might not be treated with cruelty, and then delivered his bundle to Blee, who gave it to Kelly; after which he gave his money, which was in a tin-box: after searching his pockets, and taking his tobacco-box, they retreated towards London.

By the direction of Berry, Blee conducted the lads to a lodging-house in Kent-street; and the next morning met them at the Spread Eagle in the Borough market, where they had ate and drank on the preceding day. Blee now went to the White Bear, and informed Berry, Egan and Salmon where he had left the boys; and presently after returned with some lamb's liver for breakfast, and found Egan sitting in the box with them. He whispered to the lads, that the man (Egan) was a dealer in old cloaths, and would probably purchase the breeches. Blee asked him to buy the breeches; for which he offered five shillings, giving one shilling as earnest, and saying he would soon fetch the rest of the money.

Egan now pretended that he had lost his tobacco box; on which that taken from Salmon was offered him, and he purchased it for a quart of beer. Egan now returned to the White Bear; and presently after Blee, under pretence of going to be shaved, called upon his accomplices at that house, and then proceeded through the city to Uxbridge,

Egan

Egan went again to the Spread Eagle, but, in order to detain the lads, urged the absence of Blee as an excuse for not immediately paying the four shillings. In a few minutes M'Daniel entered, and saying he had a warrant against Ellis and Kelly, seized them, and, taking a rope from his pocket, tied them together.

M'Daniel now dispatched a messenger for Salmon, and, when he came into the house, turned to Egan, asking him what was contained in the handkerchief under his arm: on which he, with an affected abruptness, said, "What is that to you? My bundle contains my own property, which I have but just purchased." M'Daniel insisting upon seeing the contents of the bundle, it was opened; when Salmon claimed the breeches, saying he had been robbed of them. In consequence of this, Kelly and Ellis were searched, and a knife, a pocket-piece, and some other articles, being found upon them, and claimed by Salmon, they were taken out of the house, in order for examination before a magistrate at Greenwich. M'Daniel used every argument in his power to persuade the boys to confess themselves guilty of the robbery; and promised, if they would comply, to exert his utmost endeavours to save their lives: but they persisted in a refusal. Upon reaching Greenwich, all the parties went into a public-house for refreshment, and then went before a magistrate, who committed the prisoners to Maidstone gaol.

On the way to Maidstone, they related to the constable, who had charge of them, the manner in which they had been seduced by Blee; and, on his return, he stated the particulars to Mr. Cox, the high-constable of the hundred, who, having heard that Blee and M'Daniel were acquainted, entertained

ed a suspicion that some villany had been practised with respect to the youths; and he therefore caused Blee to be apprehended. Blee being taken to the magistrate at Greenwich, acknowledged all the particulars respecting the wicked transaction, and his confession being taken in writing, he affixed to it his signature.

The time for holding the assizes being arrived, Mr. Cox, having a warrant for apprehending Berry, Salmon, M'Daniel, and Egan, went to Maidstone, having Blee in custody. Mr. Cox waited till the conclusion of the trial, but had no sooner heard the foreman of the jury pronounce the prisoners guilty, than he caused the four iniquitous accomplices to be taken into custody. They obstinately persisted in declaring themselves innocent; and even when confronted with Blee, denied having the least knowledge of him: but, on the following day, they severally requested to be admitted evidences for the crown: in this neither of them was indulged, the evidence of Blee being deemed sufficient for their conviction.

They were removed to London, in order for trial, as being accessaries before the fact. The jury were not able to determine whether the prisoners came within the description of the statutes fourth and fifth of Philip and Mary, or third and fourth of William and Mary, and therefore referred the case to the decision of the twelve judges.

The special verdict being brought to a hearing before the judges in the hall of Serjeants-inn, council was heard on both sides, and it was unanimously determined that the offences charged against the prisoners did not come within the meaning of the statutes above mentioned: but orders were given for indicting them for a conspiracy.



An indictment being found against them, they were again put to the bar at the Old-Bailey, and the evidences exhibited against them on their former trial being recapitulated, the jury pronounced them guilty, and they were sentenced to be punished in the following manner: Berry and M'Daniel to stand on the pillory, once at the end of Hatton-garden in Holborn, and once at the end of King-street in Cheap-side; Salmon and Egan to stand once in the middle of West Smithfield, and the second time at the end of Fetter-lane, in Fleet-street; and all to be imprisoned in Newgate for the space of seven years, and upon the expiration of that time not to be discharged without finding sureties to be bound in the penalties of a thousand pounds each for their good behaviour for the seven following years.

March the 5th, 1756, M'Daniel and Berry were set on the pillory at the end of Hatton-garden, and were so severely treated by the populace that their lives were supposed to be in danger.

Egan and Salmon were taken to Smithfield on Monday the 8th of the same month, amidst a surprising concourse of people, who no sooner saw the offenders exposed on the pillory, than they pelted them with stones, brick-bats, potatoes, dead dogs and cats, and other things. The constables now interposed; but being soon overpowered, the offenders were left wholly to the mercy of an enraged mob. The blows they received occasioned their heads to swell to an enormous size; and by people hanging to the skirts of their cloaths they were nearly strangled. They had been on the pillory about half an hour, when a stone striking Egan on the head, he immediately expired. It was judged improper again to expose the surviving offenders



offenders to the indignation of a furiously enraged populace. Salmon, M<sup>c</sup>Daniel, and Berry, died in Newgate, but not in consequence of their wounds.

Though the offences of the above men were attended with the most aggravating circumstances of wilful and premeditated murder, they were perpetrated in such a manner as not to be cognizable under the penal laws: but they had “all the “guilt of blood” to answer for at that high tribunal, where, as they had lived without mercy, and died without repentance, they could have no hope of escaping that most dreadful punishment denounced against those who violate this divine command, “Thou shalt do no murder.”



Account of the Life of BLI GONZALEZ, alias JOHN SYMMONDS, alias SPANISH JACK, who, on the Evidence of his Accomplice, was executed for privately stealing a Silver Tankard from a Public-house at *Rocheſter*.

**G**ONZALEZ was descended of reputable parents reſiding at Alicant in Spain, who were exceedingly careful of his education, intending him for holy orders: but all their hopes in him were diſappointed; for he abſconded from ſchool, and entered on board a man of war. Having remained ſome years in this ſtation, he engaged on board a ſhip of war belonging to England, and ſailed up the Levant.

After ſtaying ſome time at Alexandria, Smyrna, and other places, the ſhip put into Gibraltar, and was ordered to be laid up; in conſequence of which he entered on board a Dutch veſſel. He ſerved in ſeveral Engliſh privateers during the war; and

when peace was restored, joined one of the gangs of smugglers that infested the coasts of Kent and Sussex.

His connexions among the English induced him to change his name to John Symmonds; by which appellation we shall hereafter distinguish him.

Having acquired a sum of money, he repaired to London, and formed an acquaintance with a number of people of both sexes of the most abandoned characters. Having spent his money in scenes of riot and intoxication, he obtained credit for divers small sums from different people, whom he amused by assuring them that he was entitled to prize-money, on the receipt of which he would pay them.

His creditors becoming importunate for their money, he formed the resolution of going again to sea: but not being able to enter into such advantageous engagements as he expected, he became acquainted with an infamous gang of robbers, and joined in their iniquitous practices. They committed a variety of robberies in the fields near Stepney; but none of them were attended with circumstances sufficiently remarkable for recital.

His Symmonds was passing along Rag-fair, he was seized by a person he, in conjunction with other villains, had robbed the preceding evening. This event occasioned him to reflect on his dangerous situation; and judging that, if he continued his illegal courses, he could not long escape detection, he determined to give information against his accomplices.

He communicated his design to M'Daniel, and accompanied him and other thief-takers one evening to a house where they were drinking, when Mandeville; Holmes and Newton were taken into custody;

custody ; but two others of the gang escaped thro' a window. Mandevile, Holmes and Newton were convicted on the evidence of Symmonds, and executed in October, 1751, at Tyburn.

For the apprehension of the three malefactors above mentioned, the thief-takers received a reward of four hundred and twenty pounds, of which they allowed the evidence only ten pounds ; and, by various contrivances, they kept him in custody till he had expended all but thirty shillings of that sum. They imagined that they might obtain further emolument through his means ; and therefore endeavoured to keep him in a state of poverty, that he might be the more readily induced to return to his former practices, expecting that he would betray his new accomplices into the fate suffered by Mandevile, Holmes, and Newton.

Symmonds had for some time lived on terms of great intimacy with Anthony and Emanuel de Rosa, the murderers of Mr. Fargues, the particulars of whose unfortunate death we have already recorded. Having engaged to go on the highway with Dissent and Branch, (executed for the murder of Mr. Brown) they called at his lodgings : but the girl with whom he cohabited dissuaded him from accompanying them. Upon seeing the watch and other property stolen from Mr. Brown, he regretted his yielding to the persuasions of the girl, and upbraided her as the cause of his losing a share of so valuable a booty.

The many robberies he had committed in London, and its adjacencies, having rendered him so notorious, that he thought himself in great danger of being apprehended, he determined to go into the country. Having travelled to Rochester, he formed an acquaintance with a fellow named Smith,

Smith, who was publicly known to live by felonious practices.

Symmonds and Smith went to a public-house in Rochester, and while they were drinking some punch, found an opportunity of concealing a silver tankard, which they carried off unperceived. On the following day they were apprehended, and committed to Maidstone gaol, Symmonds to be tried for stealing the tankard, and Smith to appear against him as evidence for the crown.

While Symmonds was under sentence of death, he acknowledged, that till he was convinced the term of his life was nearly expired, he had not reflected on the most important consequences that would result from his iniquitous proceedings; and that, if he had escaped conviction, he should have returned to his usual practices. He appeared to repent of his former wickedness with unfeigned sincerity, and expressed hopes of forgiveness through the merits of his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

From the prison to the place of execution he was seriously employed in prayer, and when under the gallows he warned the people to guard against following such courses as had produced his destruction. After some time spent in devout prayer with a reverend divine, the executioner put in force the sentence of the law.

John Symmonds was executed at Maidstone, on the 18th of April, 1756.

The case of this offender should convince us, that unhappy consequences will arise from the indulgence of vicious dispositions; and that habits of vice are not to be eradicated but with difficulty.

Symmonds was fearful of being apprehended; but yet he could not collect sufficient resolution to abandon a way of life attended by continual danger



danger and anxiety; although he was conscious that the wages of honest labour would have been equal to the gratification of every reasonable desire.

Intemperance too frequently leads to crimes of greater enormity. Those who do not abhor the company of people abandoned in principle, are in imminent danger of being seduced to copy their example; for, by familiarizing ourselves to scenes of dissipation and infamy, they will gradually become less disgusting: and such is the frailty of human nature, that when we so affront the dignity of virtue as to look upon vice with indifference, we sink into the latter by an easy transition; while our endeavours to soar towards the former are but feebly exerted, and are repressed by such obstructions as cannot be surmounted but by uncommon efforts of resolution.



Account of RICHARD HUGHES, executed for a *Forgery* on the Directors of the South Sea House, and WILLIAM ADAMS, who suffered a similar Fate, for counterfeiting 'Certificates of the Entries on Wines.

THE parents of Richard Hughes lived in Staffordshire. They gave him an education sufficient to qualify him for trade; and at the usual age put him apprentice to a taylor of considerable business in London, to whom he proved a faithful and industrious servant.

The term of his apprenticeship being expired, he hired a house in Arundel-street in the Strand, and carried on business on his own account with  
con-

considerable reputation and success. Soon after his establishment in trade, he made pretensions of love to a young woman of handsome fortune; and the day of marriage was appointed: but so volatile and changeable was his temper, that casually meeting with another young woman whose person pleased him, he married her in a few days, in violation of his contract with the party who had a prior claim.

His business continuing greatly to increase, in a few years after his marriage he was possessed of a considerable sum, which he disposed of in purchasing a share in a brewhouse; from which, however, he reaped no advantage.

While Hughes carried on the brewery business, his uncle, who lived in Staffordshire, and the other executor to his father's will, commissioned him to receive money due from persons in London to the estate of the deceased; and that business he transacted with care and punctuality.

His circumstances becoming embarrassed, he determined on the desperate measure of committing forgery, as the means of extricating himself from his difficulties. Knowing that his uncle was possessed of South Sea annuities, he formed the design of getting such part of that gentleman's property into his possession as would prove equal to his necessities.

Having procured a letter of attorney, he filled up the blanks, and counterfeited the signatures both of his uncle and the minister of the parish wherein the proprietor of the stock resided; and carrying the false instrument to the proper office, it was registered, and he received five hundred pounds. Soon after the above transaction, he went to his uncle's in Staffordshire, and paid him the dividend

to which the proprietors of South Sea stock were entitled.

Some circumstances being understood by the old gentleman as cause for suspicion as to the integrity of his nephew's conduct, he wrote to a friend in London, requesting that he would make the necessary enquiries as to the matter in doubt.

The forgery was presently discovered, in consequence of which Hughes was apprehended, and committed for trial at the Old Bailey.

The prosecution was carried on at the expence of the South Sea directors; and the prisoner being convicted on the clearest evidence, received sentence of death.

WILLIAM ADAMS was a man rather advanced in age, who had been many years one of the examiners of the certificates of the entries made on wines, and till the discovery of the offence for which he forfeited his life, his character was unimpeached.

It is customary for merchants to pay the duty upon wines when they are landed; and if any of them prove to be damaged, the money is returned upon relinquishing the wine to the use of the king.

Adams forged a certificate for obtaining the drawback upon ten tons of wine, and received two hundred and fifty pounds. Each certificate is signed by six persons, and he imitated the several signatures with such nicety, that the fraud would perhaps have never been discovered but for an omission in one of the dates, which occasioned an enquiry for rectifying the mistake.

Upon being charged with the commission of the forgery, Adams made but a feeble endeavour to exculpate himself; and being committed to prison,

he was, at the ensuing sessions, convicted and sentenced to be hanged.

The above offenders deceived themselves in the hopes of being pardoned, till they were informed that the warrant for their execution was issued. They then applied themselves to the important work of atoning for their offences by sincere repentance. At the place of execution they prayed in a very devout manner, and having recommended each other to the mercy of the Almighty, they suffered the punishment due to their offences.

Richard Hughes and William Adams were executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of May, 1757.

As there were no very remarkable circumstances attending the above malefactors, to render separate observations necessary, we have included both cases in one narrative.

When we consider that it is next to impossible for the perpetrator of forgery to escape detection, and that it is equally certain that the detection will be followed by the utmost rigour the law can inflict, it appears astonishing that people, however desperate their circumstances, should be so infatuated as to commit a crime of such enormity.

Hughes and Adams entertained hopes of being pardoned—but on what foundation could such vain hopes be raised! The consequences of forgery are so dangerous and extensive, that, since the law has deemed it a capital felony, the royal mercy has not (excepting in two or three very remarkable cases) been extended to the perpetrator thereof.

Let the reader then be warned, that the man who counterfeits the signature of another, almost inevitably signs the fatal instrument of his own destruction.

The



The uncommon Case, and singular Adventures, of WILLIAM PAGE, who was hanged at *Maidstone* for a Robbery on the Highway.

**W**ILLIAM PAGE was the son of a farmer at Hampton, and being a boy of promising parts, was sent to London to the care of his cousin, who was a haberdasher, and who engaged to see him educated.

His kinsman sent him to school, where he soon distinguished himself beyond his associates, not only in dexterity at such games as children amuse themselves with, but in all the little arts of defraud; so that his school-fellows were afraid to engage with one who possessed such superiority of address and management.

A few particulars in the early part of Page's life we now recite, on account of their singularity: not that we would have any attention paid to the old proverb, which says, that "he that is born to be hanged, will never be drowned."

During the hard frost, in the winter of 1739, Page was sliding with other boys on the canal in St. James's park, when the ice broke under him, and he sunk; and the ice immediately closing over him, he must have perished; but just at this juncture the ice again broke with another boy near him, and Page rose precisely at the vacancy made by the latter, who was drowned; but Page was saved.

In the summer following this singular escape, Page was trying to swim with corks in the Thames, when they slipped from under his arms, and he sunk; but a waterman got him up, and he soon recovered.

Going up the river on a party of pleasure, about five years afterwards, with several other young fellows, the boat over-set with them in Chelsea-reach, and every one in the boat was drowned, except Page.

On a voyage to Scotland, about eighteen months after this escape, the ship in which he sailed foundered in Yarmouth-road, and most of the people on board perished; but another vessel, observing their distress, sent out a long-boat, by the help of which Page and a few others saved their lives.

His relation, the haberdasher, employed him in his shop; but he greatly neglected his business to attend the arts of dress. He was such a consummate coxcomb, that he was perpetually employing tailors to alter his cloaths to any new fashion he had seen. This being observed by his kinsman, he directed the tailors in the neighbourhood not to receive his orders. Thus disappointed, our hero procured a dark lantern, which he secreted under his bed, and, when all the family were asleep, he used to alter his cloaths, to make them resemble the fashions then prevailing.

His relation observing this his strong propensity to be a coxcomb, abridged him of those pecuniary allowances he had hitherto granted him; which tempted Page to rob the till; and the first offence he committed of this kind was, to discharge a pretended debt for which a woman with whom he was acquainted had been arrested by a fellow who was connected with her.

This robbery was not discovered for some days; and when it was, all the servants were taxed with it, though Page was least suspected; and on his steady denial of it, the matter was suffered to rest for the present, though the money missing was  
above

above fifteen pounds. The kinsman, however, with a view to discover the thief, marked several guineas, which he put into the till; and they were soon afterwards taken out by Page. The money being missed, the master went to the chamber of each servant at night, and at length found it in Page's pocket: the consequence of which was, that he was turned out of the house immediately.

Thus distressed, he repaired to his female acquaintance, who seemed ready to receive him with caresses; but understanding what had happened, she caused her bullies to drive him from the house, exclaiming that "it was no receptacle for thieves; and that she would not run the risk of having her lodgings searched for such a wretch\*."

Thus repulsed, where he had the greatest expectation of shelter and protection, he wandered the streets for some hours, irresolute how to dispose of himself. On the following day he went to Greenwich; but being totally destitute of money, and almost starving, he resolved to write to his relation, to beg pardon for past faults.

Having pawned two handkerchiefs, he purchased some provision, and then wrote the letter, which he carried to London. This letter so affected the kinsman, that he wrote him an answer, and sent him a guinea for present supply: but, to shew his detestation of the crime, intimated that he would prosecute him for the robbery, if he presumed to make a second application.

On receipt of the money, Page exclaimed, "I shall not starve yet!" but such was his improvidence,

---

\* Young persons will do well to read the play of *George Barnwell*, to caution them against the arts of abandoned women.

vidence, that he immediately went to the vile woman with whom he had been connected, and by the next day the guinea was spent: however, she prevailed on him to write to his relation for a fresh supply.

This was the worst step he could have taken; for the kinsman, having this palpable proof of his extravagance, refused him all farther assistance.— Thus reduced, he went to his father; but the kinsman having written an account of his irregular conduct, the father insisted on his leaving the house immediately, or he would have him taken into custody as a vagabond.

Hereupon Page travelled a few miles to a relation, who cloathed him, gave him money, and advised him to go to London, and seek a service; but, conscious of his want of character, he went to York, where he got connected with a company of strolling players.

In this situation he had some success. He played Polydore and Castalio, and being almost beardless, performed some women's parts without censure. Soon afterwards, he attempted the part of Cato; but being quite drunk, he fell speechless on the stage, while repeating the famous soliloquy; and being carried off by the other actors, he could never recover his credit with the audience, and was dismissed the company.

From York he went to Scarborough, intending to have joined with a theatrical band at that place, but there was no vacancy to admit of his services. Thus disappointed, he repaired to a gaming-table, where he employed a few guineas, which he had brought from York, and soon won two hundred; but, by a pursuit of the game, he soon lost all his money.

Thus



## WILLIAM PAGE—for *Highway-Robbery*. III

Thus distressed, a gentleman offered to take him to London in the character of a livery servant.—Page hesitated for some time; but his necessity obliging him to accept the offer, he put on the livery suit. Several persons who had seen him appear as a gentleman at Scarborough, still treated him as such, presuming that a frolic had given rise to the metamorphosis; but they were soon undeceived by his master, who told them the true state of the case.

When the gentleman and his new servant came near London, they were robbed by a highwayman; and Page hearing of several exploits performed by the same man, within a few weeks, (as he supposed by the description of his dress) thence conceived the first idea of going on the highway: but he lived above a year with his master after this, giving no reason to suspect his fidelity.

When he quitted this master, he recommended him to another; but an infectious disorder obliged him to quit this second service, and seek a cure in an hospital, where he became acquainted with a woman under the like predicament.

Happening both to be discharged on the same day, they took lodgings near Charing-Cross, and lived together for some time, till at length, reduced to poverty, Page commenced highwayman, and the woman became a street-walker.

Page's first expedition was on the Kentish road; and meeting the Canterbury stage near Shooter's-hill, he robbed the passengers of watches and money to the amount of about thirty pounds, and then riding through great part of Kent, to take an observation of the cross roads, he returned to London.

He

He now took lodgings near Grosvenor-square, and frequenting the billiard-tables, won a little money, which, added to his former stock, prevented his having recourse to the highway again for a considerable time.

At length he met with a gambler, who being more expert than himself, stripped him of all his money : on which he again commenced highway man ; but for some nights did not obtain a single booty.

At length he stopped a post-chaise near Hampton Court, and robbed a gentleman and lady of ten guineas and their watches ; he took a valuable diamond ring from the gentleman, which he afterwards returned, on a reward of fifteen guineas being offered for it.

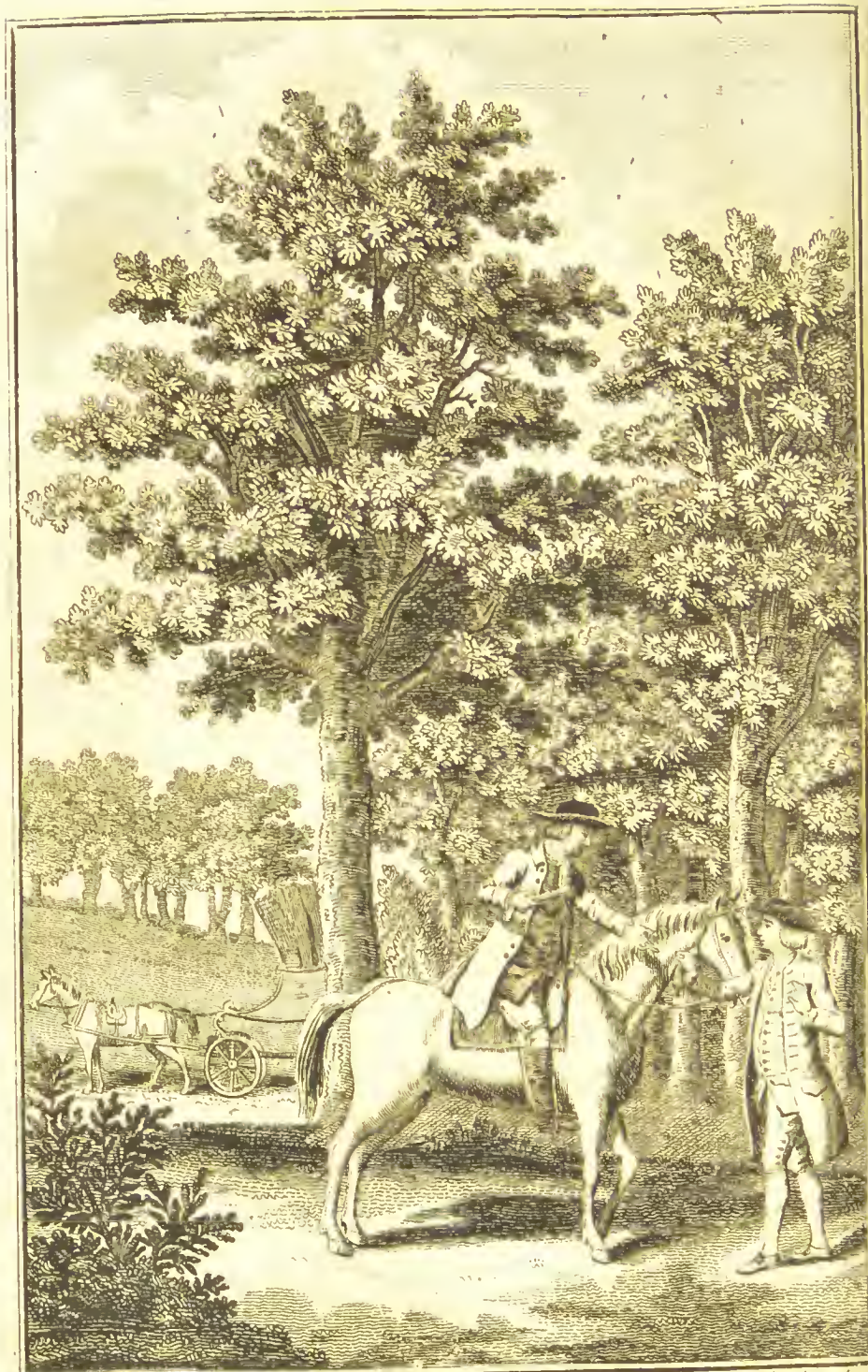
This success encouraging him to proceed in his depredations, he became more bold, and having acquired about £. 200 on the highway, he took lodgings in Lincoln's-inn, passed as a student of the law, and became acquainted with several young gentlemen who were pursuing their studies in the same place.

He now learnt to dance ; and having possessed himself of some modern literary knowledge, by the help of circulating libraries, he frequented the assemblies of Sunning-hill, Richmond, Hampstead, &c. and ladies began to look on him with distinction.

At Hampstead he became acquainted with a young lady ; who conceived a great affection for him ; and her father approving the addresses of Page, the wedding-cloaths were bought, and other preparations made for the nuptials, when the lady's father happening to go casually into the shop of Page's relation, a scene ensued which entirely disconcerted







Wale delin

Pollard sculp

W<sup>m</sup> PAGE leaving his *Sherton*, while he ROBS a  
Gentleman, near *Dutney*.



concerted the plan. The kinsman remarking to an acquaintance, that he had seen Page in a laced coat, the gentleman was tempted to make a particular enquiry; the result of which was, that he found the new-made beau to be the very party that was to be married to his daughter: whereupon Page was forbid all farther visits, to the regret of the young lady, who still considered him as a man of superior accomplishments.

By this time Page had drawn, from his own observation, and for his private use, a most curious map of the roads twenty miles round London; and driving in a phaeton and pair, he was not suspected for a highwayman.

In his excursions for robbery, he used to dress in a laced or embroidered frock, and wear his hair tied behind. When at a distance from London, he would turn into some unfrequented place, and having disguised himself in other cloaths, with a grizzle or black wig, and then saddling one of his horses, ride to the main road and commit a robbery. This done, he hastened back to the carriage; resumed his former dress, and drove to London. He was frequently cautioned to be on his guard against a highwayman, who might meet and rob him: "No, no, (said he) he cannot do it a second time, unless he robs me of my coat and shirt, for he has taken all my money already."

He had once an escape of a very remarkable kind. Having robbed a gentleman near Putney, some persons came up at the juncture, and pursued him so closely, that he was obliged to cross the Thames for his security. In the interim, some haymakers crossing the field where Page's carriage was left, found and carried off his gay apparel; and the persons who had pursued him meeting

them, charged them with being accomplices in the robbery. A report of this affair being soon spread, Page heard of it, and throwing his cloaths into a well, went back almost naked, claimed the carriage as his own, and declared that the men had stripped him, and thrown him into a ditch.

All the parties now went before a justice of the peace; and the maker of the carriage appearing, and declaring that it was the property of Mr. Page, the poor haymakers were committed for trial; but obtained their liberty after the next assizes, as Page did not appear to prosecute.

After this he made no farther use of the phaeton as a disguise for his robberies; but it served him occasionally on parties of pleasure, which he sometimes took with a girl whom he had then in keeping.

Page was passionately fond of play, and his practice this way was attended with various turns of fortune, as must be the case with all gamblers. One night he went to the masquerade with only ten guineas, and won above five hundred pounds; and this money was no sooner in his possession, than a lady, most magnificently dressed, made some advances to him, on which he put the most favourable construction.

After some conversation, she told him, that her mother was a widow, who would not admit of his visits; but that possibly he might prevail on her attendant, whose husband was a reputable tradesman, to give them admission to his house.

Page, who had repeatedly heard the other address her by the title of "My Lady," became very importunate with the good woman to grant this favour. At length all parties agreed: the servants were called; Page handed the lady and her attendant

tendant into a coach, on which was the cororet of a viscountess: two footmen with flambeaux got behind the carriage, and the coachman was ordered to drive home; but when the carriage came into Pall-Mall, fresh orders were given to proceed towards Temple-Bar.

The fine lady engaged Page's attention to such a degree, that he paid no regard whither they went. At length the carriage stopped in an obscure street, at a house which looked like a shop, and the parties went up stairs, but not before the lady had whispered one of the footmen (loud enough for Page to hear her) to acquaint her grace in the morning, that she did not return, lest she should disturb her, and therefore slept at Mrs. Price's.

The good woman of the house apologized for the meanness of her accommodations: but Page said that all apologies were needless; and the attendant retiring, he paid the most earnest addresses to the presumed lady, who at length, after a degree of affectation, that, if he had not been blinded by his own vanity, he might have *seen* to be affectation, she consented to sleep with him.

As it was late (or rather early) before they came from the masquerade, and much time had been lost in the courtship, it was four o'clock in the afternoon before they arose, and even night before a coach was called for their departure; though the lady pretended, that her mother, the dutchess, would be extremely uneasy on account of her absence.

With great difficulty Page prevailed on the lady to admit of his attendance on her part of the way home; during which he promised every thing that a lover could promise; and she answered him as he could have wished.

The coach stopping in Covent-Garden, the lady went into a chair: and our hero offering to pay the chairman, he said that he was already paid; a circumstance that convinced Page of the disinterested disposition of this new acquaintance.

Repairing now to his lodgings, he reflected with pleasure on the happy prospects before him; but feeling for his pocket-book, he discovered that it was lost, and with it the greatest part of his treasure.

He now began to suspect, that the lady of fashion was an impostor: and when she failed to meet him on the following day, agreeable to an appointment that she had made, he saw that he had been robbed of five hundred pounds, without a probability of recovering it; for the lady had been masked all the time she was in his company.

He now advertised a reward to the hackney-coachman who took them up, and made several other endeavours to find her out; but they all proved equally fruitless.

Thus stripped of his ill-acquired property, he came to a resolution to make the women pay for what a woman had stolen; and taking the road to Bath, he robbed every carriage in which was a woman. If men were in the coach, he said he had no demands on them, but had a draft for £. 500 on the ladies.

Finding that the women were possessed of little cash, he began to make his demands on the gentlemen, of whom he soon collected about £. 150, which he carried to the masquerade, and soon lost it all at the gaming-table; and was no sooner stripped of his money, than he determined to engage in an intrigue.

Leaving the gaming-room, he danced with a lady, and then attended her to supper, during which



which he said some tender things, which he presumed might tend to promote an immediate affignation; but he soon found that the lady had no other view than that of marriage, which was far from being disagreeable to him as he was then situated.

An appointment being agreed on for the following day, he waited on the lady at her house, and found that she was a widow of considerable fortune, and well descended. As he had the art of procuring himself to be well spoken of to her, she entertained no doubt of his honour. He escorted her to public places; and the expence of these attendances was defrayed by his usual resource, the highway.

After one of his expeditions on the road, he was followed to the inn where he put up his horse, and being taken into custody, was tried at Maidstone, but acquitted because the party could not swear to his identity. This circumstance, however, put an end to his acquaintance with the lady above-mentioned.

The road and the gaming-table became now his only places of resort; and what he got by pillage he generally lost by play. He frequented Bath, Tunbridge, Scarborough, and Newmarket; and when it was demanded if he was a man of fortune, the answer generally was, "He plays deep;" and no farther questions were thought necessary.

Page now connected himself with an old school-fellow, named Darwell, in conjunction with whom, in the space of three years, he committed more than three hundred robberies. The money obtained by these depredations was immediately divided; and if any dispute arose concerning a watch, or other article, they tossed up which should have it; or if they

they appraised it, Page paid Darwell the half of the presumed value. In the mean time, Page sold the watches to a Jew, who took them to Holland, and no farther enquiries were made after them.

Page was now seized with a violent illness, which proved very expensive, and the more so as he had a woman to maintain, who had no idea of retrenching her expences to suit their circumstances. It is true that Darwell gave him considerable assistance; but, notwithstanding this, he was so reduced, that, on his recovery, he was obliged to secrete himself to prevent his being arrested: and for this reason Darwell used to hire horses for them both; and Page meeting him out of London, they committed several robberies in company.

On Blackheath, Page robbed Captain Farrington, of Chislehurst in Kent; which robbery was afterwards positively sworn against a Mr. Douglas, by Captain Farrington's postilion; who likewise deposed, that a pistol was fired at him: but after Page was under sentence of death, he solemnly averred, that no pistol was fired; and likewise declared, with equal solemnity, that if Mr. Douglas had been convicted, he had formed a resolution of surrendering, and exculpating that gentleman.

In the mean time Mr. Douglas was brought to trial, and honourably acquitted, on his bringing the fullest proof that he was at a distant part at the time that the affair happened.

Soon after the commission of this robbery, Page heard that a distant relation in Scotland, who had promised to leave him his fortune, was near death; on which he took shipping for that country; but the vessel being cast away, he lost all his effects but the cloaths on his back; and when he arrived in Scotland, his relation was dead, without having  
made

made any provision for him : on which he returned to London.

Darwell and he now renewed their depredations on the highway, and, in the course of six weeks, committed between twenty and thirty robberies on the roads adjacent to London ; and the bounties obtained in some of them being considerable, Page furnished himself with the gayest apparel, and laid by a sum of money for future contingencies.

At length, after a long course of iniquity, Justice Fielding received information, that Darwell was on the Tunbridge road : on which he sent out some people, who apprehended him near Sevenoaks, and bringing him before the magistrate above mentioned, he begged to be admitted an evidence for the crown ; and this request being complied with, he gave an ample account of the robberies committed by himself and Page, particularly mentioning the inns on the road which the latter frequented, and the place where he usually hired his horses.

The consequence was, that Page was apprehended at the Golden-Lion near Hyde-Park, when three loaded pistols were found on him, with powder, balls, a wig to disguise himself, and the correct map of the roads round London, which we have already mentioned.

Page was sent to Newgate, and an advertisement inserted in the papers, requesting such persons as had been robbed to attend his re-examination\* ; but he denied all that was alledged against him, and as he was disguised when he committed any robbery, no person could identify his person.

Page

---

\* This is a plan which, we believe, was first adopted by Sir John Fielding, and is still continued at his office, frequently with the greatest success in the detection of offenders.

Page being remanded to Newgate, remained there from July till February, when he was tried on suspicion of robbing Mr. Webb in Belfond-lane; but acquitted for want of evidence. In the interim, he lived handsomely, and supported a girl on what he had saved by his former wicked practices.—After this he was tried at Hertford, but again acquitted for want of evidence.

From Hertford he was removed to Maidstone gaol, and being tried at Rochester, for robbing Captain Farrington, (as above mentioned) was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death.—After conviction, he acknowledged his guilt, yet exerted himself in the most strenuous manner to procure a pardon. He wrote to a nobleman, in this view; and likewise sent a letter to a gentleman with whom he had lived as a servant, begging his interest that he might be sent to America as a foot soldier: but his endeavours proved fruitless, and he was ordered for execution.

This extraordinary malefactor suffered at Maidstone on the 6th of April, 1758.

What shall we say to the conduct of this man? He shewed an early propensity to vice; and no escapes from drowning or the gallows could give him warning. His ruling passions seem to have been an extravagant love of pleasure, and a most unextinguishable vanity. Dress and gaming contributed to his ruin, as they have done to that of thousands.

If young men could but be convinced how much more of real comfort and solid satisfaction there is in the plain path of honesty than in the devious track of vice, these exhortations at the close of our respective narratives would be rendered useless.

From



From the fate of Page, we may see how little confidence is to be placed in the faith of accomplices in iniquity. Darwell was as zealous to serve him as could be expected from any person in his circumstances ; but the moment his own safety became endangered, he turned evidence, and discovered his brother in iniquity. Thus will it ever be ; and perhaps there is nothing more false than the remark, that there is “honour among thieves.” Where common honesty is wanting, honour must certainly be a stranger. Let no man put trust in a thief: let him shun his company as he would a pestilence ; for he walks in the ways of death, and “his steps take hold of hell.”



A full and particular Account of the uncommon Case of DOCTOR FLORENCE HENSEY, who was convicted of *High-Treason*, and afterwards Pardoned.

DR. HENSEY was a native of the county of Kildare in Ireland, brought up a Roman Catholic, and taught the rudiments of Grammar by a priest of that persuasion.

Being sent to St. Omer's to study philosophy, he continued there till the degree of Master of Arts was conferred on him, and then proceeded to Leyden, where he studied physic. From Leyden he went through Germany and Switzerland into Italy, acquiring the knowledge of the respective languages during his travels.

Embarking at Genoa, he sailed to Lisbon, and crossing the kingdom of Portugal, he went to Spain,

and thence to France, endeavouring in his tour to make himself master of the Portuguese and Spanish languages. Having reached Paris, he practised physic in that city five years; but being unsuccessful, he repaired to London.

His success in England was not superior to that in France. His patients were few, and those of the lower rank of people. From his quitting the university at Leyden, he had corresponded with a brother collegian, who, having settled in France, procured a place in the office of the secretary of state at Paris.

When Dr. Hensley heard of his friend's promotion, he wrote him a letter of congratulation, in which he made a civil offer of executing any of his commands in London.

This happening at the commencement of a war between Great-Britain and France, Hensley's friend informed him, that he might be very serviceable by transmitting early intelligence of our warlike preparations. This hint being approved by the Doctor, the next post brought him instructions how to act, with an appointment of near £. 25 per month.

The substance of these instructions were "to send  
"complete lists of all our men of war, both in and  
"out of commission; their condition, situation, and  
"number of men on board each; when they sailed,  
"under what commanders, from what ports, and  
"their destination; an account of the actual num-  
"ber of our troops, what regiments were complete,  
"and where quartered or garrisoned."

Dr. Hensley sent such accounts as he could procure to a gentleman at Cologne, who sent them to another at Berne in Switzerland, whence they were transmitted to Paris. Hensley's salary, ample as it was, proved unequal to the expectations he had  
formed;

formed ; but he proceeded, in the hope of an increase of it.

His first attempt to acquire intelligence was by getting into company with the clerks of the public offices ; but not succeeding in this, he frequented the coffee-houses used by the members of parliament ; and his physical appearance taking off all suspicion of his being a spy, he frequently learned such particulars as he thought worth sending to his employers\*.

It was a maxim with him, not to enter into political discussions, if he could avoid it ; and when he could not, he always spoke on the government side of the question, and was a professed enemy to the French ; so that, though he was generally known to be a Catholic, he proceeded for a long time unsuspected.

His letters from Paris were sent by the way of Switzerland, whence they were transmitted to the post-office in London, and directed to him at a coffee-house in the Strand, by a fictitious name. A suspicion arose that these letters and their answers, which appeared to contain only a few lines of compliment, (as might be seen through the covers) were in fact a disguise for something of greater importance ; and this suspicion increasing by their frequency, the secretary of the post-office at length opened some of those from Hensley, in one of which, dated from Twickenham, he read,

Q 2

between

---

\* This seems to have been an extraordinary method of procuring secret intelligence, and is no more than what is practised daily by the writers for the news-papers.

between the lines written with ink, another epistle written with lemon-juice, earnestly advising the French to land on the English coast.

These letters were read by being held to the fire, and several of them containing expressions which were deemed treasonable, the utmost diligence was used to discover the writer, and learn his real name; for which purpose a person was placed at the coffee-house to which the letters were directed, who followed him to his lodgings in Arundel-street, after he had received one of them.

On the following Sunday, Hensley, who was a Catholic, went according to his constant custom, to the Spanish ambassador's chapel in Soho-square; on his return from which he was seized by two of the king's messengers, and conveyed to a place of security.

He was repeatedly examined before the secretary of state, and at length committed to Newgate to take his trial for high treason. The grand jury of Middlesex found a true bill against him in Easter term, 1758; but the trial being removed by writ of Certiorari, into the court of King's-bench, he was there arraigned, and pleaded not guilty.

He likewise demanded a copy of his indictment, which was granted, and council directed by the court to plead for him. He was advised to make proper preparation for his trial, which came on before lord Mansfield in Westminster-hall.

The council for the crown having opened the indictment, the gentlemen of the post-office swore to the finding a number of letters in his bureau, and his hand-writing was proved by some apothecaries who had made up his prescriptions.



The Doctor's council ingeniously pleaded a defect in the indictment, because the letters were intercepted at the Post-office, which was in London; whereas the offence, if any, was committed in Middlesex, the grand jury of which county could have no right to find a bill for an offence committed in London.

The council for the crown replied, that though the letters had been intercepted at the Post-office, the offence of which the indictment was founded had been committed at Twickenham, as appeared by the date of the letter. They further urged, that the solicitor of the treasury might have laid the indictment in the city of London; but he preferred fixing it in the county, because the letter from Twickenham was of the most dangerous tendency, and the other letters were to be considered only as collateral evidence against the prisoner.

Dr. Hensley's council now objected, that the writing a treasonable letter was not an overt act of high-treason, except this letter was published: in answer to which it was insisted, that the delivery of it at the Post-office was an actual publication of it. The doctor's council farther said, that he had not corresponded with the enemies of the King: for we were not at war with the Dutch, and the letters were directed to people in Holland.

The evidences having proved, that the letter dated at Twickenham contained an invitation to the French to invade this kingdom, that was considered as an overt act of high-treason; on which the plea of the prisoner was over-ruled, and the evidence was summed up by lord Mansfield.

Dr. Hensley had hitherto supported himself with courage; but during the absence of the Jury, which was about three quarters of an hour, he  
trembled

trembled excessively, and repeatedly changed colour, while large drops of sweat ran down his face, and he burst into tears, and gave every proof of the greatest agitation of mind.

On the return of the jury, he had scarcely strength to hold up his hand at the bar. A verdict of guilty being pronounced, a rule of court was made for his being brought up to receive sentence on the Wednesday following.

While lord Mansfield was pronouncing sentence, on the appointed day, the convict shed tears, turned pale, and trembled exceedingly; and, after sentence, he begged a fortnight to make proper preparation for his death: but the court generously granted him a month.

From his first apprehension by the King's messengers his behaviour had been remarkably reserved. He declined all conversation on his private affairs, and was visited by very few except his confessor. He was so reduced while in Newgate, as to be obliged to pawn his sword and linen for his support.

A respite was sent for him early on the morning on which he was to have been executed, and afterwards a reprieve during the King's pleasure. After this he continued above three years in Newgate, and then embarked for France, on obtaining a free pardon.

It was presumed that the political reason for respiting Dr. Hensley arose from a view to discover his accomplices, if he had any; but as no such discovery was ever made, it is but reasonable to suppose that the favour shewn him arose from a different cause.

At the time Hensley was apprehended, his brother was secretary and chaplain to the Spanish ambassador at the Hague. To this brother he wrote

an account of his misfortunes : in consequence of which the Spanish ambassador at London was applied to by the gentleman in similar office at the Hague ; and such representations were made to the English ministry, that the reprieve above mentioned followed ; though King George the Second could not be prevailed on to grant him a free pardon : but soon after the accession of the present King this pardon was granted, and the prisoner discharged, on giving the usual security for his good behaviour.

Dr. Hensey's trial and conviction was in the court of King's - bench, on the 12th of June, 1758.

The crime of which this man was convicted was of so dangerous a nature, exclusive of all idea of its wickedness, that one would wonder how any man could be tempted to think of committing it. While we live under the protection of the laws of any country, it is our duty to pay obedience to those laws.

Without the just assertion of legal authority, all things would fall into anarchy and confusion ; and the man who seeks to violate the laws is a traitor to himself as well as his country. The obligations of humanity are reciprocal ; and he who does not exert himself to the utmost of his power to protect and secure his fellow-subjects from injury or insult, has no right to expect security from insult himself.

What then can be said to the case of Hensey, who for paltry considerations of gain would have tempted a foreign enemy to ravage this kingdom ? The crime of a robber on the highway would have been much more excuseable. He seeks to injure an individual only ; but this man sought to distress a community.

What

What political reasons there might be for a pardon of Dr. Hensley it is as impossible to say, as it is to trace the mysterious manœuvres of ministry; but if a fear of the resentment of a Spanish ambassador was the cause, the granting such pardon was below the dignity of the ministers of the first King in Europe!



Circumstantial Account of the extraordinary Case of MARY EDMONDSON, who was hanged on *Kennington Common*, for the *Murder* of her Aunt.

THIS unhappy girl (for it is impossible to say with certainty that she was guilty) was the daughter of a farmer near Leeds in Yorkshire, and sent to reside with her aunt, Mrs. Walker, of Rotherhithe, who was a widow lady.

With this aunt she lived two years, comporting herself in the most decent manner, and regularly attending the duties of religion.

A lady named Toucher having spent the evening with Mrs. Walker, Mary Edmondson lighted her across the street on her way home; and, soon after her return, a woman who cried oysters through the street observed that the door was open, and heard the girl cry out, "help! murder! they have killed my aunt!"

Edmondson now ran to the house of Mrs. Odell, wringing her hands, and bewailing the misfortune; and the neighbours being by this time alarmed, some gentlemen went from a public-house where they had spent the evening, determined to enquire into the affair.

They



They found Mrs. Walker, with her throat cut, lying on her right side, and her head near a table, which was covered with linen. One of the gentlemen, named Holloway, said, "This is very strange; I know not what to make of it: let us examine the girl."

Her account of the matter was, that four men had entered at the back door, one of whom putting his arms round her aunt's neck, another, who was a tall man dressed in black, swore, that he would kill her if she spoke a single word.

Mr. Holloway, observing that the girl's arm was cut, asked her how it had happened; to which she replied, that one of the men, in attempting to get out, had jammed it with the door: but Holloway judging, from all appearances, that no men had been in the house, said he did not believe her, but supposed she was the murderer of her aunt.

On this charge she fell into a fit, and, being removed to a neighbour's house, was blooded by a surgeon, and continued there till the following day, when the coroner's inquest sat on the body, and brought in a verdict of wilful murder; whereupon she was committed to prison, on the coroner's warrant.

Mrs. Walker's executors, anxious to discover the truth, caused the house to be diligently searched, and found that a variety of things, which Mary Edmondson had said were stolen, were not missing; nor could they discover that any thing was lost. Mrs. Walker's watch, and some other articles, which she said had been carried off by the murderers, were found under the floor of the necessary-house.

Being committed to the new gaol, Southampton, she remained there till the next assizes for

when she was tried at Kingston, and convicted on evidence which, though acknowledged to be circumstantial, was such as, in the general opinion, admitted little doubt of her guilt.

She made a defence indeed; but there was not enough of probability in it to have any weight.

Being condemned on Saturday, to be executed on the Monday following, she was lodged in the prison at Kingston, whence she wrote to her parents, most solemnly avowing her innocence. She likewise begged that the minister of the parish would preach a sermon on the occasion of her death.

She asserted her innocence on the Sunday; when she was visited by a clergyman, and several other people; yet was her behaviour devout, and apparently sincere.

Being taken out of prison on the Monday morning, she got into a post-chaise with the keeper, and arriving at the Peacock in Kennington-lane about nine o'clock, there drank a glass of wine; and then, being put into a cart, was conveyed to the place of execution, where she behaved devoutly, and made the following address to the surrounding multitude.

"It is now too late to trifle either with God or man. I solemnly declare that I am innocent of the crime laid to my charge. I am very easy in my mind, as I suffer with as much pleasure as if I was going to sleep. I freely forgive my prosecutors, and earnestly beg your prayers for my departing soul."

After execution, her body was conveyed to St. Thomas's hospital, Southwark, and there dissected, agreeable to the laws respecting murderers.

Mary Edmondson was hanged on Kennington Common, on the 2d of April, 1759.

There

There is, and perhaps ever will remain, a mystery in the case of this convict.—If she was guilty, she was one of the vilest of hypocrites:—if not, the circumstances against her were so strong, that the jury could scarcely avoid convicting her. Upon the whole, from her case juries should learn to be cautious; for it is better that the guilty should escape, than that the innocent should be punished.

Let all our readers learn, that the day will come when a proper discrimination will be made between guilt and innocence: that there is a tribunal before which we must all appear, to give an account of “the deeds done in the flesh,” and to receive such retribution as befits the justice and mercy of the great Governor of the universe.



The most extraordinary Case of EUGENE ARAM, who was hanged in *Yorkshire*, for *Murder*; together with the ingenious Defence which he made on his Trial.

THE murder for which Aram suffered, and his whole history, is so uncommon, that our readers will be equally pleased and astonished with a full and explicit relation of it.

One of the ancestors of this offender had been high sheriff of *Yorkshire* in the reign of king Edward the Third; but, the family having been gradually reduced, Aram's father was but in a low station of life: the son, however, was sent to a school near *Rippon*, where he perfected himself in writing and arithmetic, and then went to *London*, to officiate as clerk to a merchant.

After a residence of two years in town, he was seized with the small-pox, which left him in so weak a condition, that he went back to Yorkshire for the recovery of his health.

On his recovery, he found it necessary to do something for immediate subsistence; and accordingly he engaged himself as usher to a boarding-school; but, not having been taught the learned languages in his youth, he was obliged to supply by industry what he had failed of through neglect; so that teaching the scholars only writing and arithmetic at first, he employed all his leisure hours in the most intense study, till he became an excellent Greek and Latin scholar; in the progress to which acquirements, he owed much to the help of a most extraordinary memory.

In the year 1734, he engaged to officiate as steward of an estate belonging to Mr. Norton, of Knareborough; and, while in this station, he acquired a competent knowledge of the Hebrew. At this period he married; but was far from being happy in the matrimonial connexion.

We now proceed to relate the circumstances which led to the commission of the crime which cost Aram his life. Daniel Clarke, a shoemaker, at Knareborough, after being married a few days, circulated a report that his wife was entitled to a considerable fortune, which he should soon receive. Hereupon Aram, and Richard Houseman, conceiving hopes of making advantage of this circumstance, persuaded Clarke to make an ostentatious show of his own riches, to induce his wife's relations to give him that fortune of which he had boasted. There was sagacity, if not honesty, in this advice; for the world in general are more  
free



## EUGENE ARAM—for *Murder*.

free to assist persons in affluence than those in distress.

Clarke was easily induced to comply with a hint so agreeable to his own desires ; on which, he borrowed, and bought on credit, a large quantity of silver plate, with jewels, watches, rings, &c. He told the persons of whom he purchased, that a merchant in London had sent him an order to buy such plate for exportation ; and no doubt was entertained of his credit till his sudden disappearance in February 1745, when it was imagined that he had gone abroad, or at least to London, to dispose of his ill-acquired property.

When Clarke was possessed of these goods, Aram and Houseman determined to murder him, in order to share the booty ; and, on the night of the 8th of February 1745, they persuaded Clarke to walk with them in the fields, in order to consult with them on the proper method to dispose of the effects.

On this plan they walked into a field, at a small distance from the town, well known by the name of St. Robert's Cave. When they came into this field, Aram and Clarke went over a hedge towards the cave, and when they had got within six or seven yards of it, Houseman (by the light of the moon) saw Aram strike Clarke several times, and at length beheld him fall, but never saw him afterwards. This was the state of the affair, if Houseman's testimony on the trial might be credited.

The murderers going home, shared Clarke's ill-gotten treasure, the half of which Houseman concealed in his garden for a twelvemonth, and then took it to Scotland, where he sold it. In the mean time Aram carried his share to London, where he sold it to a Jew, and then engaged himself as an usher at an academy in Piccadilly ; where, in the  
intervals

intervals of his duty in attending on the scholars, he made himself master of the French language, and acquired some knowledge of the Arabic, and other eastern languages.

After this, he was usher at other schools in different parts of the kingdom; but, as he did not correspond with his friends in Yorkshire, it was presumed that he was dead: but, in the year 1758, as a man was digging for lime-stones near St. Robert's Cave, he found the bones of a human body; and a conjecture hereupon arose that they were the remains of the body of Clarke, who, it was presumed, might have been murdered.

Houfeman, having been seen in the company of Clarke a short time before his disappearance, was apprehended on suspicion; and, on his examination, giving but too evident signs of his guilt, he was committed to York-castle; and the bones of the deceased being shewn him, he denied that they were those of Clarke, but directed to the precise spot where they were deposited, and where they were accordingly found. The skull, being fractured, was preserved, to be produced in evidence on the trial.

Soon after Houfeman was committed to the castle of York, it was discovered that Aram resided at Lynn in Norfolk: on which, a warrant was granted for taking him into custody; and, being apprehended while instructing some young gentleman at a school, he was conveyed to York, and likewise committed to the castle.

At the Lent assizes following the prosecutors were not ready with their evidence; on which he was remanded till the Summer assizes, when he was brought to his trial.

When

When Houselman had given his evidence respecting this extraordinary affair, and all such collateral testimony had been given as could be adduced on such an occasion, Aram was called on for his defence : but, having foreseen that the perturbation of his spirits would incapacitate him to make such defence without previous preparation, he had written the following, which, by permission, he read in court :

“ My Lord,

“ I know not whether it is of right, or through  
 “ some indulgence of your lordship, that I am allowed the liberty at this bar, and at this time,  
 “ to attempt a defence, incapable and uninstructed  
 “ as I am to speak. Since, while I see so many  
 “ eyes upon me, so numerous and awful a course, fixed with attention, and filled with I  
 “ know not what expectancy, I labour not with  
 “ guilt, my lord, but with perplexity. For having never seen a court but this ; being wholly  
 “ unacquainted with law, the customs of the bar,  
 “ and all judiciary proceedings, I fear I shall be so  
 “ little capable of speaking with propriety in this  
 “ place, that it exceeds my hope if I shall be able  
 “ to speak at all.

“ I have heard, my lord, the indictment read ;  
 “ wherein I find myself charged with the highest  
 “ crime, with an enormity I am altogether incapable of, a fact, to the commission of which  
 “ there goes far more insensibility of heart, more  
 “ profligacy of morals, than ever fell to my lot.  
 “ And nothing possibly could have admitted a presumption of this nature, but a depravity not  
 “ inferior to that imputed to me. However, as I  
 “ stand indicted at your lordship's bar, and have  
 “ heard

“ heard what is called evidence adduced in support  
 “ of such a charge, I very humbly solicit your  
 “ lordship’s patience, and beg the hearing of this  
 “ respectable audience, while I, single and unskil-  
 “ ful, destitute of friends, and unassisted by coun-  
 “ cil, say something, perhaps like argument, in  
 “ my defence. I shall consume but little of your  
 “ lordship’s time; what I have to say will be short,  
 “ and this brevity, probably, will be the best part  
 “ of it; however, it is offered with all possible  
 “ regard, and the greatest submission to your lord-  
 “ ship’s consideration, and that of this honourable  
 “ court.

“ First, my lord, the whole tenor of my con-  
 “ duct in life contradicts every particular of this  
 “ indictment. Yet had I never said this, did not  
 “ my present circumstances extort it from me, and  
 “ seem to make it necessary. Permit me here,  
 “ my lord, to call upon malignity itself, so long  
 “ and cruelly busied in this prosecution, to charge  
 “ upon me any immorality, of which prejudice was  
 “ not the author. No, my lord, I concerted no  
 “ schemes of fraud; projected no violence, injured  
 “ no man’s person or property; my days were ho-  
 “ nestly laborious, my nights intensely studious.  
 “ And I humbly conceive my notice of this, espe-  
 “ cially at this time, will not be thought imperti-  
 “ nent, or unseasonable; but, at least, deserving  
 “ some attention, because, my lord, that any per-  
 “ son, after a temperate use of life, a series of  
 “ thinking and acting regularly, and without one  
 “ single deviation from sobriety, should plunge  
 “ into the very depth of profligacy, precipitately,  
 “ and at once, is altogether improbable and un-  
 “ precedented, and absolutely inconsistent with  
 “ the course of things. Mankind is never cor-  
 “ rupted



“ rupted at once ; villainy is always progressive,  
“ and declines from right, step after step, till every  
“ regard of probity is lost, and every sense of all  
“ moral obligation totally perishes.

“ Again, my lord, a suspicion of this kind,  
“ which nothing but malevolence could entertain,  
“ and ignorance propagate, is violently opposed  
“ by my very situation at that time, with respect  
“ to health ; for but a little space before I had  
“ been confined to my bed, and suffered under a  
“ very long and severe disorder, and was not able,  
“ for half a year together, so much as to walk.  
“ The distemper left me indeed, yet slowly and in  
“ part ; but so macerated, so enfeebled, that I was  
“ reduced to crutches ; and so far from being well  
“ about the time I am charged with this fact, that  
“ I never, to this day, perfectly recovered. Could  
“ then a person in this condition take any thing  
“ into his head so unlikely, so extravagant ? I,  
“ past the vigour of my age, feeble and valetudi-  
“ nary, with no inducement to engage, no ability  
“ to accomplish, no weapon wherewith to perpetrate  
“ such a fact ; without interest, without power,  
“ without motive, without means.

“ Besides, it must needs occur to every one,  
“ that an action of this atrocious nature is never  
“ heard of but, when its springs are laid open, it  
“ appears that it was to support some indolence,  
“ or supply some luxury ; to satisfy some avarice,  
“ or oblige some malice ; to prevent some real, or  
“ some imaginary want : yet I lay not under the  
“ influence of any one of these. Surely, my lord,  
“ I may, consistent with both truth and modesty,  
“ affirm thus much ; and none who have any vera-  
“ city, and knew me, will ever question this.

“ In the second place, the disappearance of  
 “ Clarke is suggested as an argument of his being  
 “ dead ; but the uncertainty of such an inference  
 “ from that, and the fallibility of all conclusions  
 “ of such a sort, from such a circumstance, are  
 “ too obvious, and too notorious, to require in-  
 “ stances : yet, superseding many, permit me to  
 “ procure a very recent one, and that afforded by  
 “ this castle.

“ In June, 1757, William Thompson, for all  
 “ the vigilance of this place, in open day-light,  
 “ and double-ironed, made his escape ; and, not-  
 “ withstanding an immediate enquiry set on foot,  
 “ the strictest search, and all advertisement, was  
 “ never seen or heard of since. If then Thomp-  
 “ son got off unseen, through all these difficulties,  
 “ how very easy was it for Clarke, when none of  
 “ them opposed him ? but what would be thought  
 “ of a prosecution commenced against any one seen  
 “ last with Thompson.

“ Permit me, next, my lord, to observe a little  
 “ upon the bones which have been discovered. It  
 “ is said, which perhaps is saying very far, that  
 “ these are the skeleton of a man. It is possible  
 “ indeed it may ; but is there any certain known  
 “ criterion, which incontestably distinguishes the  
 “ sex in human bones ? Let it be considered,  
 “ my lord, whether the ascertaining of this point  
 “ ought not to precede any attempt to identify  
 “ them.

“ The place of their depositum too claims much  
 “ more attention than is commonly bestowed upon  
 “ it : for, of all places in the world, none could  
 “ have mentioned any one, wherein there was  
 “ greater certainty of finding human bones than a  
 “ hermitage, except he should point out a church-  
 “ yard ;

“ yard ; hermitages, in time past, being not only  
 “ places of religious retirement, but of burial too.  
 “ And it has scarce, or never been heard of, but  
 “ that every cell now known contains or contained  
 “ these reliëts of humanity ; some mutilated, and  
 “ some entire. I do not inform, but give me leave  
 “ to remind your lordship, that here sat solitary  
 “ sanctity, and here the hermit, or the anchoress,  
 “ hoped that repose for their bones, when dead,  
 “ they here enjoyed when living.

“ All the while, my lord, I am sensible this is  
 “ known to your lordship, and many in this court,  
 “ better than to me. But it seems necessary to my  
 “ case that others, who have not at all, perhaps,  
 “ adverted to things of this nature, and may have  
 “ concern in my trial, should be made acquainted  
 “ with it. Suffer me then, my lord, to produce a  
 “ few of many evidences, that these cells were used  
 “ as repositories of the dead, and to enumerate a  
 “ few in which human bones have been found,  
 “ as it happened in this in question ; lest, to some,  
 “ that accident might seem extraordinary, and,  
 “ consequently, occasion prejudice.

1. “ The bones, as was supposed, of the Saxon  
 “ St. Dubritius, were discovered buried in his cell  
 “ at Guy’s cliff near Warwick, as appears from the  
 “ authority of Sir William Dugdale.

2. “ The bones, thought to be those of the  
 “ anchoress Rosia, were but lately discovered in  
 “ a cell at Roylton, entire, fair, and undecayed,  
 “ though they must have lain interred for several  
 “ centuries, as is proved by Dr. Stukely:

3. “ But my own country, nay, almost this neigh-  
 “ bourhood, supplies another instance, for in Janu-  
 “ ary, 1747, were found, by Mr. Stovin, accom-  
 “ panied by a reverend gentleman, the bones, in

“ part, of some recluse, in the cell at Lindholm,  
 “ near Hatfield. They were believed to be those  
 “ of William of Lindholm, a hermit, who had long  
 “ made this cave his habitation.

4. “ In Feb. 1744, part of Wooburn-abbey  
 “ being pulled down, a large portion of a corpse  
 “ appeared, even with the flesh on, and which  
 “ bore cutting with a knife; though it is certain  
 “ this had lain above 200 years, and how much  
 “ longer is doubtful; for this abbey was founded  
 “ in 1145, and dissolved in 1538 or 9.

“ What would have been said, what believed,  
 “ if this had been an accident to the bones in  
 “ question?

“ Farther, my lord, it is not yet out of living  
 “ memory, that a little distance from Knarefbo-  
 “ rough, in a field, part of the manor of the wor-  
 “ thy and patriot baronet who does that borough  
 “ the honour to represent it in parliament, were  
 “ found, in digging for gravel, not one human  
 “ skeleton only, but five or six deposited side by  
 “ side, with each an urn placed at its head, as your  
 “ lordship knows was usual in ancient interments.

“ About the same time, and in another field,  
 “ almost close to this borough, was discovered also,  
 “ in searching for gravel, another human skeleton;  
 “ but the piety of the same worthy gentleman  
 “ ordered both pits to be filled up again, com-  
 “ mendably unwilling to disturb the dead.

“ Is the invention of these bones forgotten,  
 “ then, or industriously concealed, that the disco-  
 “ very of those in question may appear the more  
 “ singular and extraordinary? whereas, in fact,  
 “ there is nothing extraordinary in it. My lord,  
 “ almost every place conceals such remains. In  
 “ fields,



“ fields, in hills, in highway sides, in commons,  
 “ lie frequent and unsuspected bones. And our  
 “ present allotments for rest for the departed is  
 “ but of some centuries.

“ Another particular seems not to claim a little  
 “ of your lordship’s notice, and that of the gen-  
 “ tlemen of the jury ; which is, that perhaps no  
 “ example occurs of more than one skeleton being  
 “ found in one cell : and in the cell in question  
 “ was found but one ; agreeable, in this, to the  
 “ peculiarity of every other known cell in Britain.  
 “ Not the invention of one skeleton, but of two,  
 “ would have appeared suspicious and uncommon.

“ But it seems another skeleton has been disco-  
 “ vered by some labourer, which was full as con-  
 “ fidently averred to be Clarke’s as this. My lord,  
 “ must some of the living, if it promotes some in-  
 “ terest, be made answerable for all the bones that  
 “ earth has concealed, and chance exposed ? and  
 “ might not a place where bones lay be mentioned  
 “ by a person by chance, as well as found by a  
 “ labourer by chance ? or is it more criminal acci-  
 “ dentally to name where bones lie, than acciden-  
 “ tally to find where they lie ?

“ Here too is a human skull produced, which  
 “ is fractured ; but was this the cause, or was it  
 “ the consequence of death ? was it owing to vio-  
 “ lence, or was it the effect of natural decay ? if it  
 “ was violence, was that violence before or after  
 “ death ? My lord, in May, 1732, the remains of  
 “ William, lord archbishop of this province, were  
 “ taken up, by permission, in this cathedral, and  
 “ the bones of the skull were found broken ; yet  
 “ certainly he died by no violence offered to him  
 “ alive, that could occasion that fracture there.

“ Let

“ Let it be considered, my lord, that, upon  
 “ the dissolution of religious houses, and the com-  
 “ mencement of the reformation, the ravages of  
 “ those times affected both the living and the dead.  
 “ In search after imaginary treasures, coffins were  
 “ broken up, graves and vaults dug open, monu-  
 “ ments ransacked, and shrines demolished ; and it  
 “ ceased about the beginning of the reign of queen  
 “ Elizabeth. I entreat your lordship, suffer not the  
 “ violences, the depredations, and the iniquities  
 “ of those times, to be imputed to this.

“ Moreover, what gentleman here is ignorant  
 “ that Knareborough had a castle ; which, though  
 “ now a ruin, was once considerable both for its  
 “ strength and garrison ? All know it was vigo-  
 “ rously besieged by the arms of the parliament :  
 “ at which siege, in sallies, conflicts, flights, pur-  
 “ suits, many fell in all the places round it, and  
 “ where they fell were buried ; for every place,  
 “ my lord, is burial earth in war ; and many,  
 “ questionless, of these, rest yet unknown, whose  
 “ bones futurity shall discover.

“ I hope, with all imaginable submission, that  
 “ what has been said will not be thought imperti-  
 “ nent to this indictment ; and that it will be far  
 “ from the wisdom, the learning, and the integrity  
 “ of this place, to impute to the living what zeal  
 “ in its fury may have done ; what nature may have  
 “ taken off, and piety interred ; or what war alone  
 “ may have destroyed, alone deposited.

“ As to the circumstances that have been raked  
 “ together, I have nothing to observe, but that all  
 “ circumstances whatever are precarious, and have  
 “ been but too frequently found lamentably falli-  
 “ ble ; even the strongest have failed. They may  
 “ rise to the utmost degree of probability, yet they  
 “ are

“ are but probability still. Why need I name to  
 “ your lordship the two Harrisons recorded by Dr.  
 “ Howel, who both suffered upon circumstances,  
 “ because of the sudden disappearance of their  
 “ lodger, who was in credit, had contracted debts,  
 “ borrowed money, and went off unseen, and re-  
 “ turned a great many yeas after their execution?  
 “ Why name the intricate affair of Jacques du  
 “ Moulin, under king Charles II. related by a gen-  
 “ tleman who was council for the crown? and why  
 “ the unhappy Coleman, who suffered innocent,  
 “ though convicted upon positive evidence, and  
 “ whose children perished for want, because the  
 “ world uncharitably believed the father guilty?  
 “ Why mention the perjury of Smith, incautiously  
 “ admitted king’s evidence; who, to screen himself,  
 “ equally accused Faircloth and Loveday of the  
 “ murder of Dun; the first of whom, in 1749, was  
 “ executed at Winchester; and Loveday was about  
 “ to suffer at Reading, had not Smith been proved  
 “ perjured, to the satisfaction of the court, by the  
 “ surgeon of Gosport hospital?

“ Now, my lord, having endeavoured to shew  
 “ that the whole of this process is altogether re-  
 “ pugnant to every part of my life; that it is in-  
 “ consistent with my condition of health about that  
 “ time; that no rational inference can be drawn,  
 “ that a person is dead who suddenly disappears;  
 “ that hermitages were the constant repositories of  
 “ the bones of the recluse; that the revolutions in  
 “ religion, or the fortune of war, has mangled, or  
 “ buried the dead: the conclusion remains perhaps  
 “ no less reasonably than impatiently wished for.  
 “ I, at last, after a year’s confinement, equal to  
 “ either fortune, put myself upon the candor, the  
 “ justice, and the humanity of your lordship, and  
 “ upon

“ upon yours, my countrymen, gentlemen of the  
 “ jury.”

Aram was tried by Judge Noel, who, having remarked that this defence was one of the most ingenious pieces of reasoning that had ever fallen under his notice, summed up the evidence to the jury, who gave a verdict that Aram was guilty ; in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

After conviction, a clergyman was appointed to attend him, to represent the atrociousness of his crime, to bring him to a proper sense of his condition, and exhort him to make an ample confession.

Aram appeared to pay proper attention to what was said : but, after the minister had retired, he formed the dreadful resolution of destroying himself, having previously written a letter, of which the following is a copy :

“ My dear friend,

“ Before this reaches you, I shall be no more a  
 “ living man in this world, though at present in  
 “ perfect bodily health ; but who can describe the  
 “ horrors of mind which I suffer at this instant ?  
 “ Guilt ! the guilt of blood shed without any pro-  
 “ vocation, without any cause, but that of filthy  
 “ lucre, pierces my conscience with wounds that  
 “ give the most poignant pains ! ’Tis true, the con-  
 “ sciousness of my horrid guilt has given me fre-  
 “ quent interruptions in the midst of my business,  
 “ or pleasures ; but still I have found means to stifle  
 “ its clamors, and contrived a momentary remedy  
 “ for the disturbance it gave me, by applying to  
 “ the bottle or the bowl, or diversions, or com-  
 “ pany, or business ; sometimes one, and sometimes  
 “ the other, as opportunity offered : but now all  
 these



“ these, and all other amusements, are at an end,  
 “ and I am left forlorn, helpless, and destitute of  
 “ every comfort; for I have nothing now in view  
 “ but the certain destruction both of my soul and  
 “ body. My conscience will now no longer suffer  
 “ itself to be hoodwinked or browbeat; it has now  
 “ got the mastery; it is my accuser, judge, and  
 “ executioner; and the sentence it pronounceth  
 “ against me is more dreadful than that I heard  
 “ from the bench, which only condemned my body  
 “ to the pains of death, which are soon over; but  
 “ conscience tells me plainly, that she will summon  
 “ me before another tribunal, where I shall have  
 “ neither power nor means to stifle the evidence  
 “ she will there bring against me; and that the  
 “ sentence which will then be denounced, will not  
 “ only be irreverfible, but will condemn my soul  
 “ to torments that will know no end.

“ O! had I but hearkened to the advice which  
 “ dear-bought experience has enabled me to give!  
 “ I should not now have been plunged into that  
 “ dreadful gulph of despair, which I find it impos-  
 “ fible to extricate myself from; and therefore my  
 “ soul is filled with horror inconceivable. I fee  
 “ both God and man my enemies; and in a few  
 “ hours shall be exposed a public fpectacle for the  
 “ world to gaze at. Can you conceive any con-  
 “ dition more horrible than mine? O, no! it can-  
 “ not be! I am determined, therefore, to put a  
 “ fhort end to trouble I am no longer able to bear,  
 “ and prevent the executioner, by doing his bufi-  
 “ nefs with my own hand, and fhall by this means  
 “ at leaft prevent the fhame and difgrace of a  
 “ public expofure; and leave the care of my foul  
 “ in the hands of eternal mercy. Wifhing you all  
 “ health, happinefs, and profperity, I am, to the

Vol. IV. No. 35. T “ laft

“last moment of my life, yours, with the sincerest  
“regard,

“EUGENE ARAM.”

When the morning appointed for his execution arrived, the keeper went to take him out of his cell, when he was surprized to find him almost expiring through loss of blood, having cut his left arm above the elbow, and near the wrist, with a razor; but he missed the artery. A surgeon being sent for, soon stopped the bleeding, and when he was taken to the place of execution he was perfectly sensible, though so very weak as to be unable to join in devotion with the clergyman who attended him.

He was executed near York, on the 6th of August, 1759, and afterwards hung in chains on Knareborough forest.

Such was the end of Eugene Aram: a man of consummate abilities, and wonderful erudition: the power of whose mind might have rendered him acceptable to the highest company, had not the foul crime of murder made him only an object of pity to the lowest!

How such a man, with abilities so superior, could think of embruining his hands in the blood of a fellow-creature, for the paltry consideration of gain, is altogether astonishing! It does not appear that he had any irregular appetites to gratify, or that he lived in any degree above his income. His crime, then, must be resolved into that of covetousness, which preys like a viper on the heart of him that indulgeth it.

From this vice, so repugnant to all the feelings of humanity, may the God of Benevolence protect us! But, while we pray against covetousness, let us  
recollect,

recollect, that prudence, with regard to pecuniary concerns, is essential to our passing through this life with credit; and that the man who is not frugal of his own property, is seldom able to be generous, or even just, to others!



A particular Account of the uncommon Case of JOHN AYLIFFE, Esq; who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for *Forgery*; with some suitable Reflections thereon.

THE father of this unhappy man lived several years as an upper servant with Gerrard Smith, Esq; a gentleman of large fortune near Tockenham in Wiltshire. After young Ayliffe had been instructed in the first rudiments of learning, he was sent to the celebrated academy at Harrow on the Hill, where he became a good proficient in Latin and Greek.

On his quitting the academy, he acted in the capacity of usher to a boarding-school at Lincham in Wiltshire, where, unknown to her parents, he married the daughter of a clergyman, who had a fortune of £. 500. On receipt of this money, he became so extravagant, that he spent the whole in the course of two years; when, being in circumstances of distress, a widow lady, named Horner, took him into her service as house-steward.

In a short time he was appointed land-steward to another lady, who recommended him as a man of abilities to the honourable Mr. Fox (afterwards lord Holland) who gave him the place of one of the commissaries of musters in the war-office, by

which he acquired the right of adding the title of esquire to his name.

The profits of Ayliffe's new office were so considerable that he was induced to purchase an elegant house in Dorsetshire, which he furnished in a stile far too expensive for his rank of life. In other instances, he gave proofs of a strange extravagance of disposition; for he ran in debt to a number of people, though his income was sufficient to have satisfied the wishes of any reasonable man.

At length, when his creditors became urgent, he had recourse, for a present supply, to some irregular, and very dangerous, practices; amongst others, he forged a presentation to the valuable rectory of Brinkworth in Wiltshire, which he sold to a young clergyman for a considerable sum. This living being in Mr. Fox's gift, he forged his hand-writing, and that of two subscribing witnesses, with admirable dexterity: but, soon after Ayliffe's affairs became desperate, a discovery was made of this infamous fraud.

The effect was that the clergyman took to his bed, and literally died in consequence of that oppression of spirits which is commonly called a broken-heart; for the purchase of the presentation had ruined his circumstances. After his death, the following short note was found in his drawer, directed to John Ayliffe Satan, Esq.

“ Sir,

“ I am surprized you can write to me, after you have robbed and most barbarously murdered me.

“ Oh Brinkworth!”

Ayliffe being arrested for debts to the amount of eleven hundred pounds, took refuge in the Fleet



Fleet-prison, where he forged a deed of gift from Mrs. Horner for four hundred and twenty pounds a year, and three thousand pounds in money. On this deed he raised considerable sums, by a series of artifice and management that is almost without example.

For this forgery he was brought to trial at the Old-Bailey, and capitally convicted : but, in the interval, he was continually representing Mr. Fox as the concealed author of his ruin, to prevent his making discovery of some irregular transactions which he alledged were carried on at the war-office.

Ayliffe still continued to charge his benefactor with unjustifiable proceedings, in the very moment that he was soliciting his interest to save his life ; for, after conviction, he wrote him the following letter :

“ Honoured Sir,

“ The faults I have been guilty of shock my  
 “ very soul, and particularly those towards you ;  
 “ for which I heartily ask pardon both of God  
 “ and you. The sentence pronounced upon me  
 “ fills me with horror, such as was never felt by  
 “ mortal. What can I say? O my good God!  
 “ that I could think of any thing to induce you to  
 “ have mercy upon me ; or to prevail upon you,  
 “ good Sir, to intercede for my life. I would do  
 “ any thing, either at home or abroad. For God’s  
 “ sake, good Sir, have compassion on your unhappy  
 “ and unfortunate servant,

JOHN AYLIFFE.”

We are told, that Mr. Fox supported this man during the whole time of his confinement in Newgate,

Newgate, allowing every thing that his unhappy situation could require.

Ayliffe seems to have been much unprepared for death, possibly flattering himself with the hopes of a pardon. He was in the utmost agonies during the greater part of the night previous to his execution; but slept about two hours towards the approach of morning. His agitation of mind had induced a fever, which producing an intolerable thirst, he endeavoured to allay it by drinking large and repeated draughts of water.

On his way to the place of execution his violent agitations seemed to have subsided; and at the fatal tree he behaved with decency and composure. Some persons present called out "a reprieve!" but he paid no regard to what was said; and his hopes, respecting this life, appeared now to be vanished.

After execution his body was put into a hearse, and conveyed into Hertfordshire for interment, agreeable to his own request.

He suffered at Tyburn on the 7th of November, 1759.

Such is the account transmitted to us respecting Mr. Ayliffe, who became much the subject of public conversation, and while he was execrated by many, was pitied by many more. A very extraordinary pamphlet was published, called "The Case of John Ayliffe, Esq." which contained a great variety of original papers, and was thought, we know not with what justice, to bear very hard on the character of the late lord Holland.

Whether the assertions in this pamphlet were true or false, we pretend not to determine; but we have been told that the edition was bought up by the friends and agents of lord Holland, and we know

know that another edition of it was published some years afterwards, from a manuscript copy which had been taken of it, and preserved as a curiosity.

It was at one time the general report that Mr. Fox had promised to save Ayliffe's life, and that this promise was repeated to him even till he was under the gallows.

Whatever of truth or falsehood there may have been in all these matters, it is time they should subside. The parties concerned are dead; and we should say of Ayliffe, in the words of the poet,

No farther seek his merits to disclose,  
Or draw his frailties from their dread abode,  
(There, they alike, in trembling hope, repose)  
The bosom of his father, and his God!



A particular Recital of the extraordinary Case of WILLIAM ANDREW HORNE, Esq; who was hanged at *Nottingham*, for *Murder*; with many Circumstances of his Life and Behaviour.

**T**HIS malefactor was the son of a gentleman of fortune at Butterley in Derbyshire, at which place he was born in the year 1685.

His father, who was distinguished by his classical knowledge, endeavoured to teach the son Latin and Greek; but wanting a disposition to learn, he never made any considerable progress. The father allowed him the use of his hounds, and furnished him with a horse and a gun.

Horne

Horne took delight in the sports of the field; but there were other pleasures, to which he was at least equally attached. His passion for women was unbounded; nor was it equalled by any other, but a most singular degree of avarice, which distinguished him throughout the whole course of his life.

He seduced several girls, two of whom were servants to his mother, and one was the daughter of a farmer, which latter died in consequence of her grief. By one woman he had two natural daughters, one of whom lived to the age of fifteen years, and the other was living in 1759, and might have been reputably married, but that the avaricious father refused to give her a shilling as a fortune.

He had likewise criminal connexions with his own sister; which leads us to speak of the crime for which he suffered. This sister being delivered of a boy in Feb. 1724, Horne told his brother Charles, three days afterwards, and at ten o'clock at night, that he must take a ride with him. He then put the new-born infant in a bag, and mounting their horses, they rode to Annesley in Nottinghamshire, at the distance of five computed miles, carrying the child alternately.

On their arrival near the village, William dismounted, and enquired if the child was living, and being answered in the affirmative, he took it, and told his brother to wait till he came back. On his return, Charles demanded to know how he had disposed of the infant; to which he said, that he had placed it behind a hay-stack, and covered it with hay.

After William Horne was in custody, his account of this transaction was to the following effect.



effect. He said he had no design of destroying the infant; but put it in a bag lined with wool, and made a hole in the bag, that it might not be stifled. He added, that the child was handsomely dressed, and he had intended to have left it at the door of Mr. Chaworth, of Annesley; but the dogs barking, and there being a light in the house, he desisted from his first intention, in the fear of a discovery.

After some hesitation, he said he resolved to place it under a warm hay-stack, in the hope that, when the servants came to fodder the cattle in the morning, it would be found. Such was his account of the matter; and on the following morning the child was found, but dead, through the severity of the weather. How this affair came to be kept secret for such a number of years, will hereafter appear.

In a short time after the transaction, a quarrel happened between the brothers; in consequence of which Charles communicated the affair to his father, who enjoined him to the strictest secrecy; which was observed till the death of the old gentleman, who departed this life, aged 102 years, in the year 1747.

William having always behaved with great severity to his brother Charles, and the latter (soon after the death of the father) having some business to transact with Mr. Cooke, an attorney at Derby, told him of the long-concealed affair, and asked his advice. The lawyer told him to go to a justice of the peace, and make a full discovery of the whole transaction.

Hereupon Charles went to a magistrate, and acquainted him with what had happened: but he hesitated to take cognizance of it; said it might

hang half the family ; and that as it had passed so many years ago, advised that it might remain a secret\*.

In consequence hereof no farther notice was taken of it till the year 1754, when Charles Horne being seized with a violent fit of illness, called in the assistance of one Mr. White, of Ripley ; and presuming that he should live but a short time, said he could not die in peace without disclosing his mind. When Mr. White had heard the tale, he declined giving any advice, saying it was not proper for him to interfere in the affair.

Charles recovered his health in a surprizing manner ; and Mr. White, who saw him again in a few days after, expressing his astonishment at so speedy a recovery, the other said, “ He had been better “ ever since he had disclosed his mind to him.”

A considerable time after this William Horne had a quarrel with a Mr. Roe, at a public-house, concerning the right of killing game ; when Roe called Horne an “ incestuous old dog.” Hereupon Horne prosecuted him in the ecclesiastical court at Litchfield, where Roe was cast, and obliged to pay all expences.

This circumstance enflamed Roe with revenge, and having learnt that Charles Horne had mentioned something of his brother having caused his natural child to be starved to death, he made such enquiry of Charles as determined him how to act.

Here-

---

\* This was strange advice to be given by a justice of the peace. The date of a crime does not lessen its enormity ; and it is the duty of the magistrate to receive every information that may tend to the advancement of justice, and the punishment of vice.

Hereupon he went to a magistrate in Derbyshire and obtained a warrant, but took Charles's word for his appearance on the following day. William hearing that such warrant was granted, and being apprehensive that his brother might be admitted evidence, he sent for him, and told him that he would be his friend, if he would deny all that he had said. This the other refused: but told him, that if he would give him five pounds, he would go immediately to Liverpool, and quit the kingdom: but William's excessive avarice prevented his complying with this moderate request.

Charles being examined by some magistrates in Derbyshire, they declined interfering in the business: on which a justice of the peace in Nottinghamshire was applied to, who issued a warrant for taking William Andrew Horne, Esq; into custody; and this warrant was backed by Sir John Every, a magistrate of Derbyshire.

A constable from Annesley went with Mr. Roe, and some other assistants, to Mr. Horne's house, about eight in the evening; but could not obtain admittance: on which the constable left Roe and another to watch that the party should not escape, and returned in the morning, when a servant told them his master was gone out; but Roe and his companion insisting that he had not escaped in the night, they were at length admitted, after having threatened to burst the door.

They now diligently searched the house, but could not find the party they wanted; and would probably have desisted, but that Roe insisted on making another search, during which they observed a large old chest, and Mrs. Horne being asked what it contained, said "it was full of sheets and table linen." Roe declared he would look into

it, and was on the point of breaking it open, when Mrs. Horne unlocked it, and her husband suddenly started up, saying, "It is a sad thing to hang me; for my brother Charles is as bad as myself, and he cannot hang me without hanging himself."

Hereupon he was taken into custody, and being carried before two justices of the peace in Nottinghamshire, they committed him to take his trial at the following assizes.

He had not been long in confinement, when he applied to the court of King's Bench for a writ of Habeas Corpus; which being granted, he was brought to London, and his council argued that he ought to be admitted to bail; but the judges were of a different opinion, and he was remanded to the gaol of Nottingham.

On the 10th of August, 1759, he was brought to trial before lord chief baron Parker; and, after a hearing of about nine hours, the jury found him guilty, and sentence of death passed of course.

Though so many years had passed since the transaction, the persons who found the child were yet living; and their testimony corroborating that of his brother Charles, led to the conviction above mentioned.

Horne being convicted on a Saturday, was sentenced to die on the Monday following; but a number of gentlemen waited on the judge, intimating that Horne had been so long hardened in iniquity, that a farther time would be necessary to prepare him for his awful change; in consequence of which a respite of a month was granted him.

When this time was nearly expired, he received a reprieve during his majesty's pleasure; so that he began to entertain hope of obtaining a free pardon.

He



He employed the greater part of his time in writing to people that he thought might have interest to save him. He seemed little affected by the enormity of his crime, and frequently said, “it was damned hard to suffer on the evidence of a brother, for a crime committed so many years before.”

It was generally reported that he had committed a number of other atrocious crimes, most of which he denied; and said to an acquaintance, “My brother Charles was tried at Derby about twenty years ago, and acquitted; my dear sister Nancy perjuring herself at the same time to save his life, which you see was preserved to hang me.”

He acknowledged to a clergyman who assisted him in his devotions that he forgave all his enemies, even his brother Charles; but made the following strange addition to his speech, that if, at the day of judgment, “God Almighty should ask him how his brother behaved, he would not give him a good character.”

It happened that on the day appointed for his execution he had just completed his 74th year; and having always been accustomed to have a plumb-pudding on his birth-day, he would have continued that custom if he had received another reprieve.

This singular offender was hanged at Nottingham, on the 11th of December, 1759.

It may now be proper to mention such farther particulars of him as may be worthy of transmitting to posterity, by way of information or example. His father left him all his real estate, having before assigned the whole of his personal, by deed of gift, to his other son. The father died in the kitchen,  
when

when he had twelve guineas in his pocket, which were the undoubted property of Charles, as being a part of his personal effects; but William took them out of the father's pocket, nor would promise to return them till Charles engaged to pay the expence of the funeral: but when he afterwards asked for the money, William turned him out of the house.

Soon afterwards Charles was in great distress, and, having a family, his children used to go begging bread at their uncle's door; but their petitions and persons were rejected with equal scorn.

The distinguishing marks of this man's character were avarice and brutality. He was severe beyond expression on any unqualified person, who kept a sporting dog, or made use of a gun. Charles kept a public-house at a gate leading to his brother's house; and would frequently hold open the gate, and stand humbly with his hat in his hand, while the lordly esquire rode by without deigning to take notice of him.

Such is the account we have of William Andrew Horne; a man who, by his situation in life, might have lived a credit to himself, and a blessing to his neighbours, instead of being wretched in his own mind, and a terror to all about him.

There is no story in our volumes that affords a more admirable lesson against avarice than the present. If this malefactor had not grudged the paltry sum of five pounds, his brother, who was the only material evidence against him, would have quitted the kingdom, and he would at least have had time to repent of his misdeeds, and have died in a manner less disgraceful than at the gallows.

Hence, however, we ought to admire the wisdom of that providence, which, to answer its own  
great

great and important ends, and to set an example to the world, may make a guilty man blind to his obvious safety, and instruct the miser to be penurious to his own ruin.



A comprehensive Account of the Life, Trial, and Behaviour of LAURENCE EARL FERRERS, who was hanged for the *Murder* of Mr. JOHNSON, his Steward; with some Particulars of his Lordship's Family and Descent.

FROM the royal-blood of the Plantagenets was the house of Ferrers descended, and had been distinguished for ages. One of the family was slain while fighting on behalf of the crown, at the memorable battle of Shrewsbury, in the beginning of the reign of Henry the Fourth; a circumstance that is mentioned by the immortal Shakespeare.

The second baronet of this family, Sir Henry Shirley, married one of the daughters of the famous earl of Essex, who was beheaded in the reign of queen Elizabeth; and Sir Robert Shirley, son of the abovesaid Henry, died in the Tower, where he was confined by Oliver Cromwell, for his attachment to the cause of king Charles the First.

Sir Robert's second son succeeding to his title and estate, Charles the Second summoned him to parliament by the title of lord Ferrers of Chartley, as the descendant of one of the coheiresses of Robert earl of Essex, the title having been in abeyance from the death of the said earl, and the precedence  
of

of it as high as the 27th year of Edward the First. In the year 1711, queen Anne created Robert lord Ferrers viscount Tamworth, and earl Ferrers. This nobleman possessed a very large estate; but it was greatly diminished by making provision for his numerous family, which consisted of no less than fifteen sons and twelve daughters, by two wives.

The titles were possessed by the second son of the first earl; but as he died without having any son, they fell to the next surviving brother, who was his father's ninth son: but as he did not marry, they fell, on his death, to the tenth son, who was father to the unfortunate earl whose crime gives rise to this narrative.

Laurence earl Ferrers was a man of an unhappy disposition. Though of clear intellects, and acknowledged abilities when sober, yet an early attachment to drinking greatly impaired his faculties; and, when drunk, his behaviour was that of a madman\*.

Lord Ferrers married the youngest daughter of Sir William Meredith, in the year 1752; but behaved to her with such unwarrantable cruelty, that she was obliged to apply to parliament for redress; the consequence of which was that an act passed for allowing her a separate maintenance, to be raised out of his estates.

At

\* On this occasion it may not be improper to observe on that extravagance which is too frequently the consequence of inebriation. If a man did but consider how he reduces himself even below the level of a brute by drunkenness, surely he would never be guilty of such a low, such a pitiful vice!



At Derby races, in the year 1756, lord Ferrers ran his mare against captain M——'s horse for £. 50, and was the winner. When the race was ended, he spent the evening with some gentlemen, and in the course of conversation the captain (who had heard that his lordship's mare was with foal) proposed, in a jocular manner, to run his horse against her at the expiration of seven months. Lord Ferrers was so affronted by this circumstance, which he conceived to have arisen from a preconcerted plan to insult him, that he quitted Derby at three o'clock in the morning, and went immediately to his seat at Stanton-Harold in Leicestershire.

He rang his bell as soon as he awaked; and a servant attending, he asked if he knew how Capt. M—— came to be informed that his mare was with foal. The servant declared that he was ignorant of the matter, but the groom might have told it; and the groom being called, he denied having given any information respecting the matter.

Previous to the affront presumed to have been given on the preceding evening, lord Ferrers had invited the captain and the rest of the company to dine with him as on that day; but they all refused their attendance, though he sent a servant to remind them that they had promised to come. Lord Ferrers was so enraged at this disappointment, that he kicked and horse-whipped his servants, and threw at them such articles as lay within his reach.

The following will afford a specimen of the brutality of lord Ferrers's behaviour. Some oysters had been sent from London, which not proving good, his lordship directed one of the servants to swear that the carrier had changed them; but the servant declining to take such an oath, the earl flew on him in a rage, stabbed him in the breast

with a knife, cut his head with a candlestick, and kicked him on the groin with such severity, that he was incapable of a retention of urine for several years afterwards.

Lord Ferrers's brother and his wife paying a visit to him and his countess at Stanton-Harold, some dispute arose between the parties; and lady Ferrers being absent from the room, the earl ran up stairs with a large clasp-knife in his hand, and asked a servant whom he met, where his lady was. The man said, "in her own room;" and, being directed to follow him thither, lord Ferrers ordered him to load a brace of pistols with bullets. This order was complied with; but the servant, apprehensive of mischief, declined priming the pistols, which lord Ferrers discovering, swore at him, asked him for powder, and primed them himself. He then threatened that if he did not immediately go and shoot his brother the captain, he would blow his brains out. The servant hesitating, his lordship pulled the trigger of one of the pistols, but it missed fire. Hereupon the countess dropped on her knees, and begged him to appease his passions; but in return he swore at her, and threatened her destruction if she opposed him. The servant now escaped from the room, and reported what had passed to his lordship's brother, who immediately called his wife from her bed, and they left the house, though it was then two o'clock in the morning.

The unfortunate Mr. Johnson, who fell a sacrifice to the ungovernable passions of lord Ferrers, had been bred up in the family from his youth, and was distinguished for the regular manner in which he kept his accounts, and his fidelity as a steward.

When



*Pinquedelin.*

*Robert Wallis*

**McJOHNSON,** *Howard to the Earl of Ferrers, SHOT*  
*by his Lordship at Simon Harold, in Leicestershire.*





When the law had decreed a separate maintenance for the countess, Mr. Johnson was proposed as receiver of the rents for her use ; but he declined this office, till urged to take it on him by the earl himself. It appears that Johnson now stood high in his lordship's opinion ; but a different scene soon ensued ; for the earl having conceived an opinion that Johnson had combined with the trustees to disappoint him of a contract for coal-mines, he came to a resolution to destroy the honest steward.

The earl's displeasure was first evinced by his sending notice to Johnson to quit a beneficial farm which he held under him ; but Johnson producing a lease granted by the trustees, no farther steps were taken in the affair.

After this, lord Ferrers behaved in so affable a manner to Johnson, that the latter imagined all thoughts of revenge had subsided ; but, on the 13th of January, 1760, his lordship called on Johnson, who lived about half a mile from his seat, and bid him come to Stanton between three and four in the afternoon of the Friday following.

His lordship's family now consisted of a gentleman named Clifford, with four of her natural children, three maid-servants, and five men-servants, exclusive of an old man and a boy.

After dinner on the Friday, lord Ferrers sent all the men-servants out of the house, and desired Mrs. Clifford to go with the children to the house of her father, at the distance of about two miles.

Johnson coming to his appointment, one of the maids let him in, and, after waiting some time, he was admitted to his lordship's room, and, being ordered to kneel down, was shot with a pistol, the

ball from which entered his body just beneath his ribs.

Lord Ferrers, alarmed at the crime he had committed, now called for the maid-servants, and directed them to put Mr. Johnson to bed. He likewise sent to Mr. Kirkland, a surgeon, who lived at Ashby de la Zouch, two miles from his seat. At the request of the wounded man, a person was also sent for his children.

Miss Johnson, the eldest daughter, soon came, and was followed by the surgeon, to whom lord Ferrers said, "I intended to have shot him dead; but, since he is still alive, you must do what you can for him."

The surgeon soon found that Johnson had been mortally wounded; but knowing the earl's fiery disposition, and dreading similar consequences to himself, he dissembled the matter, and told him that there was no danger in the case.

Hereupon, the earl drank himself into a state of intoxication, and then went to bed; after which, Mr. Johnson was sent to his own house in a chair, at two o'clock in the morning, and died at nine.

Mr. Kirkland, being convinced that Johnson could not live, procured a number of persons to secure the murderer. When they arrived at Stanton Harold, lord Ferrers was just arisen, and going towards the stables with his garters in his hand; but observing the people, he retired to the house, and shifted from place to place, so that it was a considerable time before he was taken.

This happened on a Saturday, and he was conveyed to Ashby de la Zouch, and confined at a public-house till the Monday following, when the coroner's jury having sat on the body, and delivered

a verdict of "Wilful Murder," his lordship was committed to the gaol of Leicester.

After remaining in the above place about a fortnight, he was conveyed to London in his own landau. He behaved with the utmost composure during the journey, and being taken before the house of peers, the verdict of the coroner's jury was read; on which he was committed to the Tower.

His lordship's place of confinement was the round tower, near the draw-bridge. Two wardens constantly attended in his room, and one waited at the door. At the bottom of the stairs two soldiers were placed, with their bayonets fixed; and a third was stationed on the draw-bridge: and the gates of the Tower were shut an hour before the usual time, on occasion of this imprisonment.

Mrs. Clifford now brought her four children to London, and taking lodgings in Tower-street, she sent messages to his lordship several times in the day, and answers being sent, the communication became troublesome; so that their messages were forbid to pass more than once in the day.

While in the Tower, lord Ferrers lived in a regular manner. His breakfast consisted of a muffin, and a basin of tea, with a spoonful of brandy in it. After dinner and supper, he drank a pint of wine mixed with water. His behaviour in general was very decent, but he sometimes exhibited evident proofs of discomposure of mind. His natural children were permitted to be with him some time; but Mrs. Clifford was denied admittance, after repeated applications.

Preparations being made for lord Ferrers's trial, and lord Henley (the Chancellor) being created high steward on the occasion, the trial came on before the House of Peers, in Westminster-hall, on the  
16th

16th of April, 1760. The proof of the fact was sufficiently clear: but lord Ferrers cross-examined the witnesses in such a manner as gave sufficient proof of the sanity of his mind, of which some doubts had been entertained.

Being found guilty by the unanimous voice of the peers of Great-Britain, the lord high steward passed sentence that he should be executed on the 21st of April; but his sentence was respited to the 5th of May.

While in the Tower, lord Ferrers left sixty pounds a year to Mrs. Clifford, a thousand pounds to each of his natural daughters, and thirteen hundred pounds to the children of Mr. Johnson\*.

This unhappy nobleman petitioned to be beheaded within the Tower: but, as the crime was so atrocious, the king refused to mitigate the sentence. A scaffold was erected under the gallows at Tyburn, and covered with black baize; and a part of this scaffold, on which he was to stand, was raised about eighteen inches above the rest.

On the morning of execution, he is said to have written the following lines, and to have been proceeding when the attendance of one of the wardens interrupted him;

In doubt I live, in doubt I die;

Yet, undismay'd, the vast abyss I'll try,

And plunge into eternity.

Through rugged paths——

About nine o'clock the sheriffs attended at the Tower-gate; and lord Ferrers being told they were come, requested that he might go in his own landau, instead of a mourning-coach, which had been prepared for him. No objection being made

---

\* This legacy, we are assured, is still unpaid.



made to this request, he entered the landau, attended by the Rev. Mr. Humphries, chaplain of the Tower. His lordship was dressed in a white suit, richly embroidered with silver, and when he put it on he said, "This is the suit in which I was married, and in which I will die."

Mr. Sheriff Vaillant joined them at the Tower-gate, and, taking his seat in the landau, told his lordship how disagreeable it was to wait on him on so awful an occasion, but that he would endeavour to render his situation as little irksome as possible.

The procession now moved slowly, through an immense crowd of spectators. On their way, lord Ferrers asked Mr. Vaillant, if he had ever seen such a crowd: the sheriff answered in the negative; to which the unhappy peer replied, "I suppose it is because they never saw a lord hanged before."

The chaplain, observing that the public would be naturally inquisitive about his lordship's religious opinions; he replied, "that he did not think himself accountable to the world for his sentiments on religion; but that he always believed in one God, the maker of all things; that whatever were his religious notions, he had never propagated them; that all countries had a form of religion, by which the people were governed, and whoever disturbed them in it, he considered as an enemy to society:—that he thought lord Bolingbroke to blame, for permitting his sentiments on religion to be published to the world." And he made other observations of a like nature.

Respecting the death of Mr. Johnson, he said, "he was under particular circumstances, and had met with so many crosses and vexations, that he  
" scarce

"scarce knew what he did;" but declared that he had no malice against the unfortunate man.

So immense was the crowd, that it was near three hours before the procession reached the place of execution; on the way to which lord Ferrers desired to stop to have a glass of wine and water; but the sheriff observing that it would only draw a greater crowd about him, he replied, "that is true, I say no more; let us by no means stop." He likewise observed, that the preliminary apparatus of death produced more terror than death itself.

At the place of execution, he expressed a wish to take a final leave of Mrs. Clifford; but the sheriff advised him to decline it, as it would disarm him of the fortitude he possessed; to which he answered, "If you, Sir, think I am wrong, I submit:" after which he gave the sheriff a pocket-book, containing a bank-note, with a ring, and a purse of guineas; which were afterwards delivered to the unhappy woman.

The procession was attended by a party of horse-grenadiers and foot-guards, and at the place of execution was met by another party of horse, which formed a circle round the gallows.

His lordship walked up the steps of the scaffold with great composure, and having joined with the chaplain in repeating the Lord's prayer, which he called a fine composition, he spoke the following words with great fervency: "O God, forgive me all my errors!—pardon all my sins!"

He then presented his watch to Mr. Vaillant, and gave five guineas to the assistant of the executioner, by mistake, instead of giving them to himself. The master demanding the money, a dispute arose between the parties, which might have discomposed the





*Earl Ferrers, as he lay in his Coffin at Surgeons hall.*



the dying man, had not the sheriff exerted his authority to put an end to it.

The executioner now proceeded to do his duty. Lord Ferrers's neckcloth was taken off, a white cap which he had brought in his pocket put on his head, his arms secured with a black fash, and the halter put round his neck. He then ascended the raised part of the scaffold, and the cap being pulled over his face, the sheriff gave a signal, on which the raised scaffold was struck, and remained level with the rest.

After hanging an hour and five minutes, the body was received in a coffin lined with white satin, and conveyed to Surgeons'-hall, where an incision was made from the neck to the bottom of the breast, and the bowels were taken out; on inspection of which, the surgeons declared that they had never beheld greater signs of long life in any subject which had come under their notice.

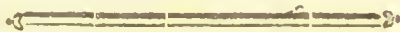
His lordship's hat and the halter lay near his feet in the coffin, on the lid of which were these words, "LAURENCE EARL FERRERS, suffered May 5, 1760." After the body had remained some time at Surgeons'-hall, for public inspection, it was delivered to his friends for interment: but it would be unjust to his memory not to mention that, during his imprisonment, he had made pecuniary recompence to several persons whom he had injured, during the extravagance of those passions to which he was unhappily subject.

This malefactor was executed at Tyburn, on the 5th of May, 1760.

The case of lord Ferrers demands our serious attention. He was born to great hopes and high expectations, and was confessedly a man of superior abilities; but the unhappy indulgence of his

passions led to his ruin. Hence, then, the due government of the passions ought to be learnt; for what is the man, who permits their unbounded gratification, but something lower than a brute?

Lord Ferrers appears to have been uninfluenced by the mild doctrines of Christianity. If these had held their proper weight on his mind, it would have been impossible that he could have acted as he did: but when Religion fails to produce its natural, its genuine effects, the man ceases to appear as such, and becomes an object of compassion, if not of contempt!



A full and particular Account of the extraordinary Case of FRANCIS DAVID STIRN, who was convicted of *Murder*; with an Account of his Life.

**T**HIS offender was the son of a minister of the Lutheran church in the principality of Hesse-Cassel, and his brother was superintendant over the clergy of a district. The young gentleman received the foundation of his education at the public grammar-school, and was then removed to the college of Bremen, where he studied divinity and logic.

Dr. Haller, a man of fortune, and a magistrate of Bremen, now appointed him tutor to one of his sons; but he was soon dismissed on account of the disagreeableness of his manners. After this, his brother placed him in the university of Hintelin, where he made great acquisitions to his former knowledge.

The

The French, at this time making an incursion, plundered the inhabitants of Hesse-Cassel, among whom Stirn's brother was so great a sufferer, that he could no longer afford to support him at the university, and therefore recommended him to a friend in London.

This friend, having no present opportunity of doing him better service, recommended him as usher at an academy in Hatton-garden, kept by Mr. Crawford. Soon after this he turned his thoughts to the military life; but from this his friends dissuaded him, presuming that his impetuous temper would not allow him to submit to the necessary controul. His next plan was to have entered himself of one of the universities: but this failed, as he had by this time disoblighed his friends, so that they would not afford him the requisite assistance.

The following circumstance will, in some measure, serve to mark Stirn's character. Going with a Prussian gentleman and Mr. Crawford to visit a Dutch merchant near Highgate, Stirn left his company and reached the house before them, where he behaved so insolently, that the gentleman directed his servants to turn him out of the house. In the evening, when Mr. Crawford returned to town, Stirn charged him with having secreted himself in a room to laugh at him; though the fact was that Stirn was turned out before Crawford's arrival.

Soon after this, Stirn became acquainted with Mr. Matthews, a surgeon; and it was reported that Matthews persuaded the other that Mr. Crawford did not pay him in proportion to his merit; and from this time Stirn's behaviour grew still worse than before, though Crawford declared he kept him only in consideration of the recommendations of his friends.

In a short time Matthews proposed that if he would instruct himself in the classics, and his wife and daughter in music, he should be welcome to his board and lodging. Crawford, who heard of this, advised Matthews not to engage so troublesome an inmate as Stirn, and Matthews immediately told Stirn what he had said; on which the latter spoke of Crawford in the most opprobrious manner. Crawford proceeded farther, by offering to advance Stirn's wages; but the other plan took place, and he removed to Matthews's house.

Soon after he was in his new lodgings, he found some bits of bread which a child had left in his room: his passions being ever in the extreme, he conceived that Matthews had caused them to be placed there, as a reflection on his dependant situation; on which he hastened to Matthews's chamber door, and dared him to make his appearance. Mrs. Matthews was in bed; but dressing herself, she informed him that her husband was not come home; and at this instant he knocked at the street door.

Stirn now charged his landlord with a design to insult his poverty, and it was with difficulty that his passions were, for the present, appeased, on being informed of the fact.

After this Stirn and Matthews lived very unhappily; and the latter applied to a magistrate, to know how he should get rid of his unwelcome guest. The magistrate advised him to give him warning to quit his lodgings in the presence of a constable. This was done; but Stirn refusing to depart, his cloaths and books were laid in the passage, that he might take them away if he chose it.

The constable, and two of Matthews's friends, were sitting in the parlour, when Stirn entered and abused Matthews in the most extravagant manner.

He



He was asked to drink a glass of wine, and it was hinted that they should part as they had met, good friends.

Stirn, having drank, told Matthews that he should have his cloaths and books for half a guinea. Matthews said he should have the money, if he would say what it was designed for; but Stirn, feeling in his pocket, said that he had money enough, and had been speaking to a person *who was to write both their lives*; yet he shook hands with Matthews, and vowed revenge in the same moment.

Mr. Crawford, hearing what had happened, went next day to Matthews's house, to endeavour at a reconciliation; but he was absent; and in the interim Stirn had purchased a pair of pistols, and sent a challenge to Matthews, who refused to accept of it.

Crawford being informed of Stirn's uneasy state of mind, sent to invite him to dinner. He went; but departing early, Crawford met him in the evening in Cross-street, when he looked so despairing, that fatal consequences were apprehended. Stirn talking of honour, Crawford turned the discourse to religion; but the other said, "I am lost to God and Man." Hereupon Crawford would have given him money to return to his own country: but he exclaimed, with tears in his eyes, "My brother will not receive me, after being turned into the street in so scandalous a manner."

Matthews frequented the Pewter-platter in Cross-street, whither Stirn went about ten at night, to meet him; but Crawford, having previously found Stirn at Owen's coffee-house, went with him, with a view to prevent mischief. Crawford used all the arguments in his power, but finding him obstinate, left him at the door of the public-house.

Stirn

Stirn found Matthews in company with some acquaintance; and reflected on him severely for what had passed. In the interim Crawford entered, apparently anxious that matters should not come to an extremity.

Stirn at length, after some violent behaviour, produced two pistols, with one of which he shot Matthews dead on the spot, and fired the other at himself, but the shot did not take place. The company was greatly alarmed; but Stirn was soon afterwards taken into custody, and lodged in Newgate for trial.

When under confinement, he fasted a week, with a resolution of starving himself to death. However he was brought to his trial, but was so faint, that a chair was allowed him in the bar. After conviction, while the recorder was pronouncing sentence, he repeatedly fainted; yet requested that he might be carried to the place of execution in a coach; but was told that this favour could only be granted by the sheriff.

Having procured some opium, he took it the same evening; and at nine o'clock the keeper of Newgate came into court, and acquainted the sheriff that it was presumed that Stirn had taken poison, for he was in violent convulsions. The sheriff attended the prisoner, and sent for an apothecary, who bled the unhappy wretch, and gave him some medicines; but he soon grew worse, and died in great agony at eleven at night.

The coroner's jury being summoned on the occasion, brought in their verdict "Self Murder;" in consequence of which the malefactor was buried in a cross-road near Battle-bridge, and a stake driven through his body.

Stirn

## THEODORE GARDELLE—for *Murder*. 175

Stirn was convicted on the 15th of September, 1760, in the 25th year of his age.

Thus ended the miserable life of a man of good family, liberal education, and genteel connexions; who appears to have fallen a sacrifice to his own ungovernable passions. His spirit was high when his circumstances were low; but he could not bear that poverty to which an act of Providence had reduced him.

From his case let us be taught the important duty of resignation to the will of God, and contentedness with every allotment of his providence: so shall we have reason to say, that, though Stirn died most miserably, he has not died in vain.

Stirn was subject to violent passions, which he indulged to his own disgrace and prejudice, and, finally, to his destruction. We should learn to keep a strict guard over our passions. Dr. Watts has four lines, which may be worthy of remembrance on this occasion:

May I be so watchful still  
O'er my humours and my passion,  
As to speak and do no ill,  
Though it should be all the fashion.

---

A full Account of the Life, Character, Conviction, and Execution of THEODORE GARDELLE, who was hanged in the *Haymarket*, for the *Murder* of Mrs. ANNE KING.

**T**HIS unhappy man was a native of Geneva, and having received an university education, went to Paris, where he studied miniature-painting, and



and having made great proficiencie in the art, went back to Geneva, where he married, and carried on his business for some years; but not being happy in his domestic connexions, he came to London, and lodged with Mrs. King in Leicester-fields.

Some time afterwards he removed to Knightsbridge; but finding that place inconvenient for his business, he returned to town, and took possession of his former lodgings.

On the 19th of February, 1761, Mrs. King's maid-servant having opened the doors of her parlour, and being ordered by her mistress to make a fire, she afterwards went to Gardelle's room, and found him employed. He now gave her two letters to carry to the Haymarket, and a guinea to change, to buy a pennyworth of snuff: but returning to her mistress, she ordered her not to go, as there was no one to give an answer at the door. This the girl told to Gardelle, who came down into the parlour to give attendance if any one should call.

Part of what follows is extracted from Gardelle's own confession, and the rest from other evidence on the trial. When the maid was gone out, Mrs. King hearing him walking in the room, called out, "Who is there?" At this instant Gardelle had just sat down to read; but she called him, and saying some harsh things to him, he called her an impertinent woman, on which she struck him a violent blow on the left side, and he gave her a push, as if he despised her; but, as she was retreating, her foot hitched in the floor-cloth, she fell, and her head struck against the bed-post with great force.

He professed his sorrow for what had happened, and, observing the blood gushing from her mouth, attempted to lift her up, and stop the bleeding; but she threatened to have him punished, and continuing



tinuing these threats, he became so enraged, that he seized an ivory comb, which had a long sharp-pointed handle, and vowed her destruction, unless she desisted from her threats.

This she would not do ; and at length, in the heat of his passion, he stabbed the handle of the comb into her throat, which killed her ; and then he covered her with the bed-cloaths. Inexpressibly terrified at the fatal work of his hands, he fainted away ; and, on his recovery, he found the maid-servant in the front parlour, just returned with his snuff.

The girl now called her mistress ; but not being answered, she got her own breakfast, and then went to clean and adjust Gardelle's apartment ; and while she was so doing, she observed him come down from the garret, which she wondered at, as she knew not any business he could have in that part of the house ; and she remarked that he had changed his dress, and seemed unusually agitated.

He now sent her with a letter to Suffolk-street, and on her return told her that her mistress was gone out in a coach with a gentleman. The maid, knowing that she had not been absent long enough for her mistress to dress herself, did not credit this story, but presumed that she and Gardelle had been very intimate in her absence ; for Mrs. King was not a woman of unblemished reputation.

A gentleman, named Wright, having lodged on the first floor, but gone into the country for the benefit of the air, his servant came at one o'clock, and ordered preparation to be made for his return in the evening. In the interim, the maid supposed that her mistress continued in bed, being ashamed to appear after her commerce with Gardelle.

The wretched man went frequently up and down stairs till three in the afternoon, when he again sent the girl to Suffolk-street, and during her absence resolved, if possible, to discharge her from the family, to prevent a discovery of the murder.

As the girl could not write, and Gardelle knew not enough of English to draw up a receipt, he wrote to a Mr. Brocket to write a proper receipt to which the girl might affix her mark. This gentleman asked, if she knew that Gardelle was authorised to discharge her. She answered in the negative; but Brocket told her, he wrote word that he had such authority; that Mrs. King was gone out, and when she returned would bring another servant.

The girl thought that the true reason of her dismissal was the intimacy between her mistress and Gardelle; and soon after her return the latter paid her wages, gave her a gratuity, and took her receipt which Mr. Brocket had written. Meeting Mr. Wright's servant as she was going out, she told him, if he would wait a little, he might probably see her mistress, who had been in bed the whole day; but the man declining to wait, Gardelle was left alone.

Hereupon he went to Mrs. King's chamber, stripped the body, and laid it on the bed. Her bloody shift he hid in a bag, under his own bed; and locked his own shirt, which was likewise bloody, in a drawer. The bed-cloaths being stained, he left them to soak in a tub of water.

Mr. Wright's servant returning, said his master had procured other lodgings, but himself slept in the garret, as it was not convenient to remove his effects. On his asking for Mrs. King next morning, Gardelle said she was gone out; and told him she

was

was not come home, when he made a similar enquiry in the evening.

On the Saturday, two days after the murder, a gentleman named Mozier, who had been intimate both with Gardelle and Mrs. King, called at the house for the latter to go with him to the opera, according to promise. The answer Gardelle gave was that she had suddenly gone to Bristol or Bath: the other, however, observing that he seemed out of humour, and attributing it to her absence, sent a girl of the town to keep him company.

Gardelle did not seem pleased with her sudden visit, but said he had some shirts to mend, which she promised to begin on the Monday following. In the interim the body remained as he had left it on the Thursday night, nor had he went near it since: but now, anxious to conceal his crime, he left his bed, and went down stairs, but, being followed by the girl, he was obliged to desist for the present.

However, he arose soon after seven the next morning, leaving the girl in bed, who did not come down till after ten, and then she found him lighting a fire. How he had employed himself in the mean time can only be conjectured. After breakfast he sent the girl for a chairwoman, whom she brought in the afternoon.

On the Monday morning Gardelle instructed this chairwoman to tell Mr. Wright's footman, that the girl in the house had been sent by Mrs. King, to look after it in her absence: but the footman paid no credit to this tale, as he had seen Gardelle and the girl in bed together.

This footman, whose name was Pelfey, repeatedly enquired for Mrs. King; and Gardelle as repeatedly said she was gone to Bath or Bristol; but without being credited. Pelfey going up stairs on Tuesday, remarked a disagreeable smell, and

asking Gardelle what it was, he answered the burning of a bone, which was partly true; for the wretch had been burning the bones of the murdered woman in the garret.

After Pelfey was asleep at night, Gardelle sent his girl to bed, and then cut Mrs. King's body in pieces. The flesh which he cut from the bones he secreted in the cock-loft, and threw the bowels into the vault. On the Wednesday evening he dismissed his girl, telling her that Mrs. King was to return that night.

The footman and chairwoman still remained in the house, and the water failing in the cistern, the latter went to the water-tub in the back kitchen, in which she felt something soft, and mentioned this to Pelfey; but there was yet no suspicion of murder: but on the following day the bed-cloaths, which Gardelle had thrown over Mrs. King's body, were found in the water-tub; and now arose the first suspicion of her having been murdered.

Hereupon Pelfey found the maid-servant whom Gardelle had discharged; and she denying the having put any such cloaths into the tub, the footman told his master what he suspected; and Mr. Baron, an apothecary, being applied to, he went to the house, and asking for Mrs. King, Gardelle told him the same story he had told the others.

The late servant-maid being examined before Sir John Fielding on the Saturday, a warrant was issued to take Gardelle into custody, and Mr. Baron attended the serving it. Gardelle denied the murder, and fell into fits; but soon recovering, they demanded the key of Mrs. King's chamber; but he said she had it with her in the country.

On this the constable got in at the window, and let Mr. Baron and others into the room. On

exa-





*Theodore Gardelle having murder'd M<sup>rs</sup> King, burns  
some of her Body & hides the rest.*



examination, they found the bed bloody; and then going up stairs, they discovered the bloody linen which had been secreted by Gardelle.

Hereupon the malefactor was carried before justice Fielding; but, not giving direct answers to the questions asked him, was committed for farther examination. In the mean time a bricklayer and carpenter were directed to search the house, and found the flesh of a human body in the loft, and the bowels in the vault: they likewise observed some burnt bones in the garret, where it was evident a fire had been made.

A gentleman had received a box from Gardelle, on the Thursday before he was taken into custody, with an injunction to keep it safely; but opening it, when he heard he was apprehended, it was found to contain Mrs. King's watch, and other articles.

While Gardelle was in New-prison, he took opium, with an intent to destroy himself; but the strength of his constitution counteracting the poison, he begged to be carried before a magistrate, to make a full confession. This the justice heard, but would not permit him to sign it, as evidence against himself; but he was recommitted for trial: and after this he swallowed a number of halfpence, in order to destroy himself; but this did not answer the end.

He was brought to trial at the Old-Bailey, on the 2d of April, and capitally convicted. His behaviour at first was outrageous; but the next day he was more resigned. He said it was with the utmost horror he associated with the woman that Mozier had sent to him; but was afraid to dismis her, lest a surmise of his guilt should arise; and when asked, why he had not escaped abroad, after com-



committing the murder, he said it was in fear that some innocent person might be charged with it.

He was conveyed to the place of execution in a cart, which stopped a while near the spot where he committed the murder; and was then hanged in the Haymarket, amidst an immense crowd of spectators, who testified their joy at his exit in a manner too turbulent for so solemn an occasion.

This atrocious malefactor suffered on the 4th of April, 1761, and was hung in chains on Hounslow Heath.

We have not one case in the course of these volumes more extraordinary than that of Gardelle; yet a short reflection on it will suffice.—His failing to attempt an escape, when he had it so long in his power, affords such a striking proof of the overruling influence of conscience as is seldom recorded. He sought to conceal his crime by artifices and devices that would infallibly bring him to destruction, when he had an opportunity of having been hundreds of miles from London before he could have been suspected.

Hence, then, let us admire the wisdom of that Providence, which conceals its divine operations from mortals, to render them in every way subservient to that dispensation which must and ought to be obeyed, without hesitation. There is no doubt but that Gardelle could have spoken unaffectedly in those expressive words, “A wounded spirit who  
“ can bear !”

---

\* \* Some trials, in the year 1744, having been omitted for want of proper materials, a gentleman in whose hands only those materials lay, has obligingly furnished us with such particulars as have enabled us



Some Tight  
Getters

on Picture  
pages

leaf 526

Some Faded  
Text

committing the murder, he said it was in fear that some innocent person might be charged with it.

He was conveyed to the place of execution in a cart, which stopped a while near the spot where he committed the murder; and was then hanged in the Haymarket, amidst an immense crowd of spectators, who testified their joy at his exit in a manner too turbulent for so solemn an occasion.

This atrocious malefactor suffered on the 4th of April, 1761, and was hung in chains on Hounslow Heath.

We have not one case in the course of these volumes more extraordinary than that of Gardelle; yet a short reflection on it will suffice.—His failing to attempt an escape, when he had it so long in his power, affords such a striking proof of the overruling influence of conscience as is seldom recorded. He sought to conceal his crime by artifices and devices that would infallibly bring him to destruction, when he had an opportunity of having been hundreds of miles from London before he could have been suspected.

Hence, then, let us admire the wisdom of that Providence, which conceals its divine operations from mortals, to render them in every way subservient to that dispensation which must and ought to be obeyed, without hesitation. There is no doubt but that Gardelle could have spoken unaffectedly in those expressive words, "A wounded spirit who can bear!"

\* \* \* Some trials, in the year 1744, having been omitted for want of proper materials, a gentleman in whose hands only those materials lay, has obligingly furnished us with such particulars as have enabled us









